ベルセルク

24

三浦建太郎 KENTARO MIURA

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BERSERK 24

BY

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三浦建太郎

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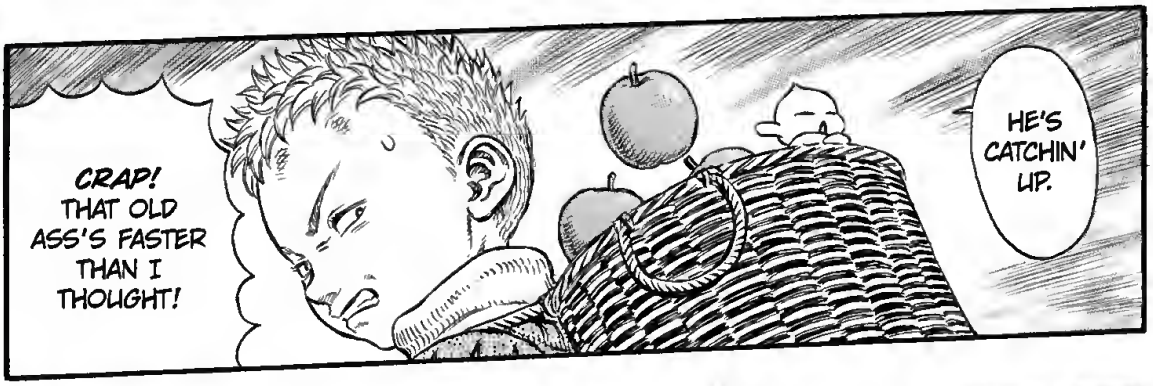
*FX: JUMP

*banner: FOOD PROCUREMENT SQUAD

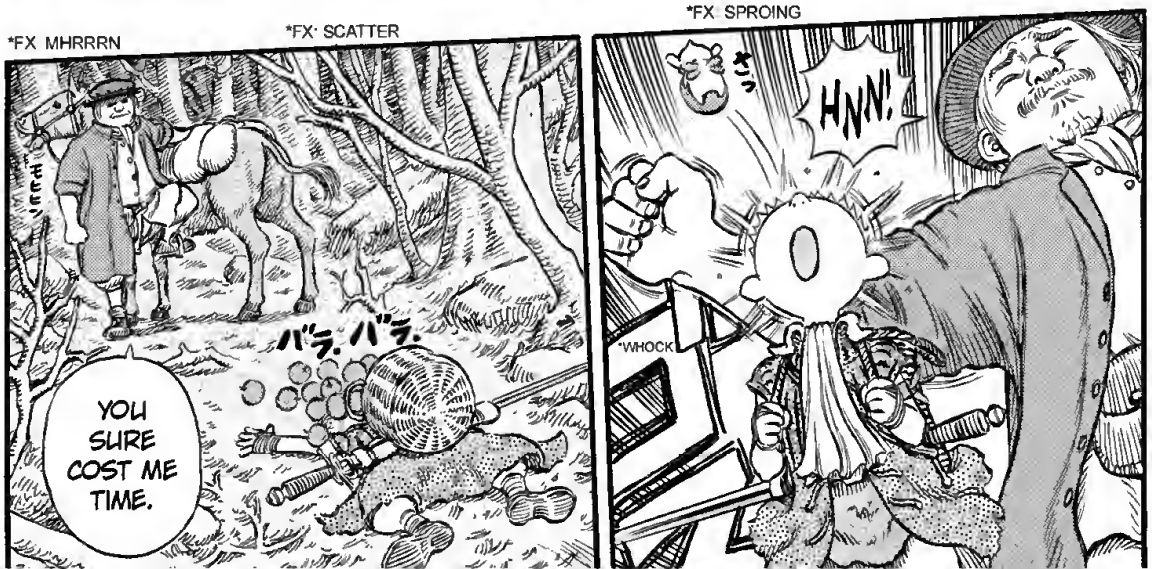
*FX: CLOPPA CLOPPA



*FX: MHRRRN

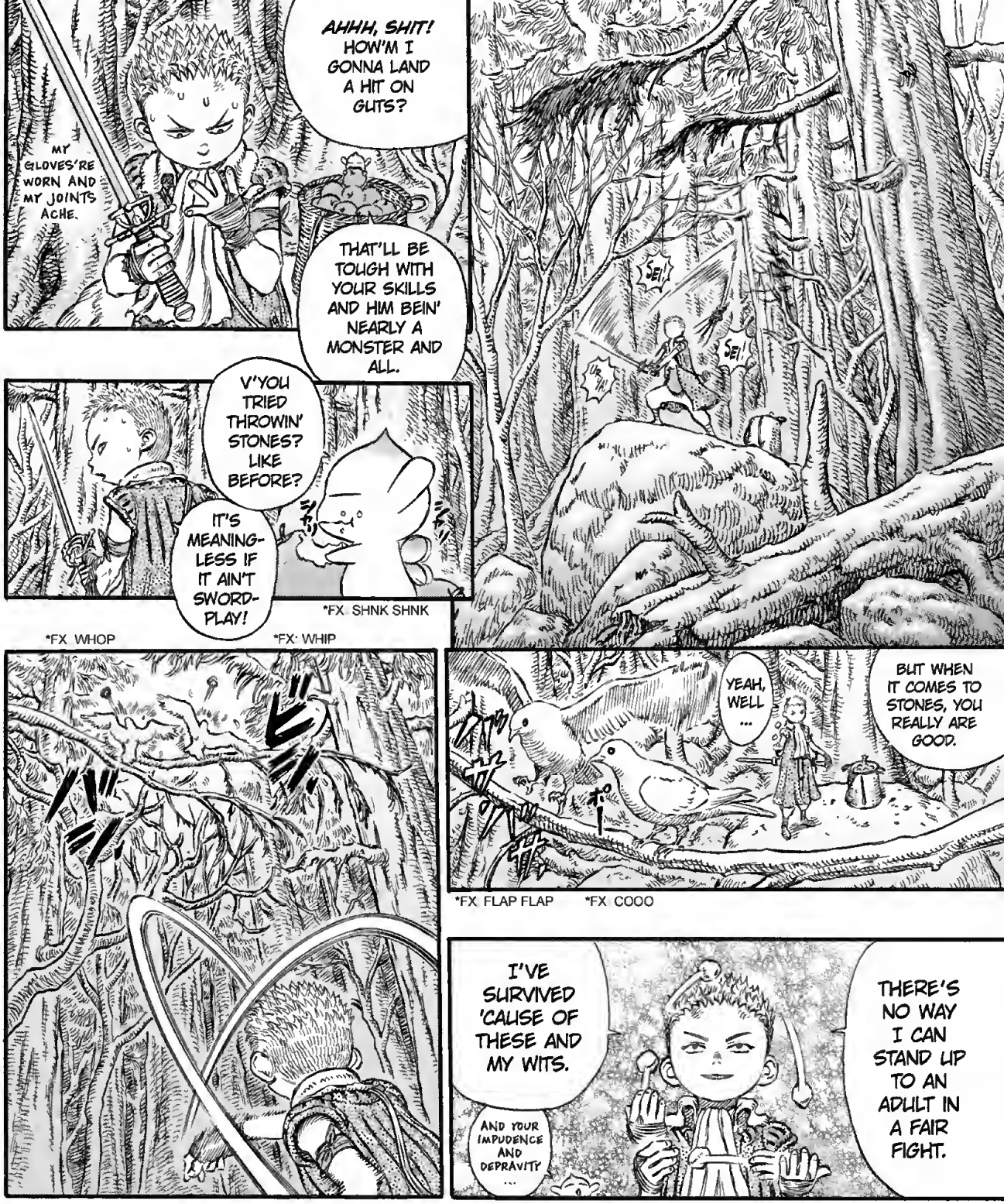
*FX: SCATTER

*FX: SPROING



HERE.
*FX. TOSS
*SHONK SHONK SHONK
WHAT THE BLAZES IS THIS WORLD COMING TO? A KID LIKE YOU, A BANDIT?
I CAN'T EVEN DO BUSINESS PEACE-FULLY.
*FX. PAP
MISTER ...
MISTER ...
*HNG...
JUST KEEP QUIET AND TAKE IT.
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, A KID LIKE YOU MAKIN' IT ON HIS OWN.
..DROP!!
*HYAH
せい!
*GEFF
*WHUMP
ドサッ
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, SONNY.
*GRAB
MISHH-TERRR!
HNNN HNNN
ISI--

YOU ROTTEN SCOUN-DRELL!
*FLINCH
*BLORP
*BLORP
*ZHA
HAND 'EM ALL OVER, STINGY BASTARD. GROWING BOYS NEED NOURISHMENT.
YA BULL-HEADED...
*TWITCH TWITCH
*HNGAHHHH
I'LL TIE YOU UP AND TOSS YOU IN THE RIVER!!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU LITTLE BRAAAAT!!
*FX: EEHRRNN CHOMP CHOMP
FISHIN', HUH? NO THANKS.

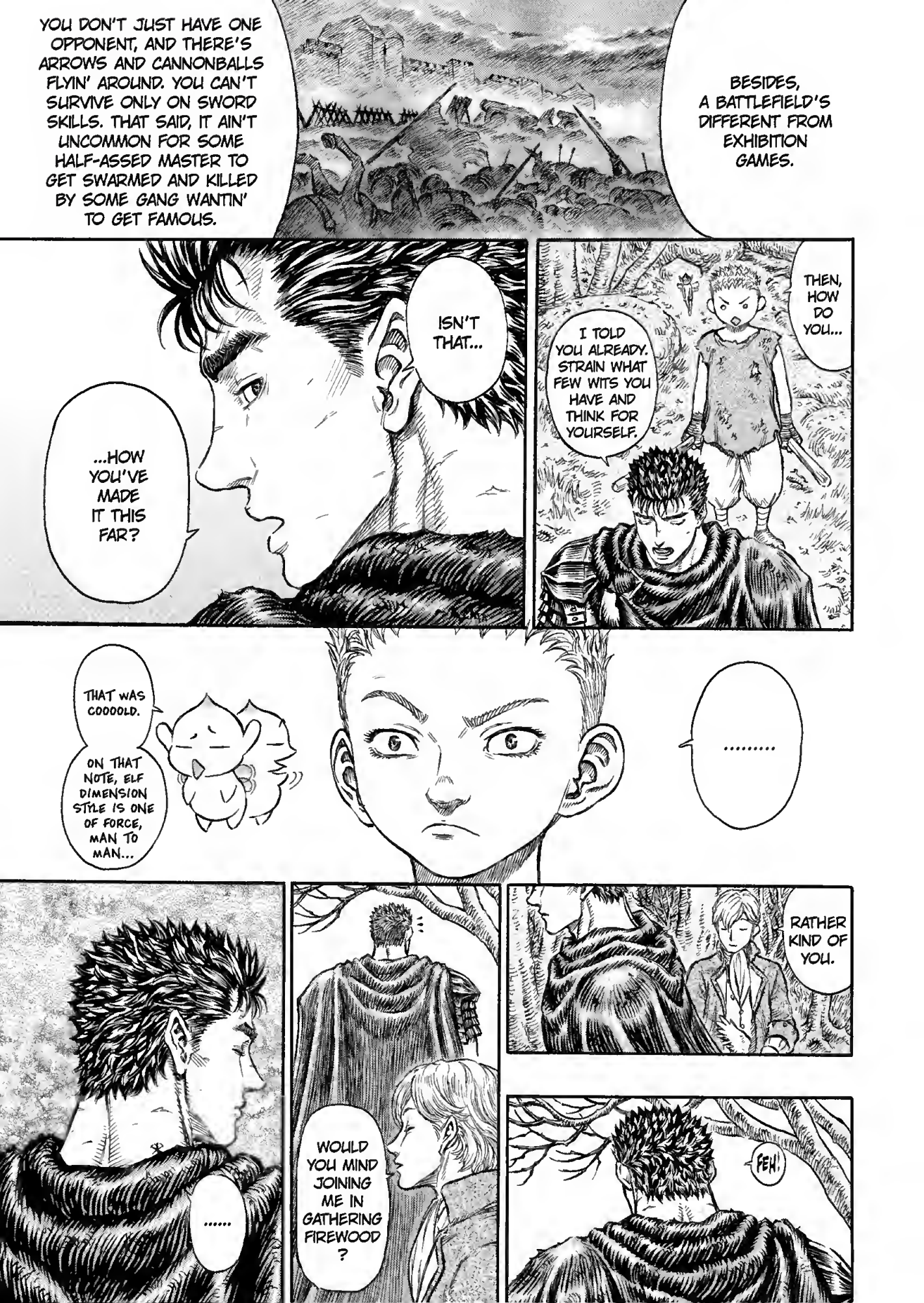

AHHH, SHIT! HOW'M I GONNA LAND A HIT ON GUTS?
MY GLOVES'RE WORN AND MY JOINTS ACHE.
THAT'LL BE TOUGH WITH YOUR SKILLS AND HIM BEIN' NEARLY A MONSTER AND ALL.
SEI!
SEI!
V'YOU TRIED THROWIN' STONES? LIKE BEFORE?
IT'S MEANING-LESS IF IT AIN'T SWORD-PLAY!
*FX. SHNK SHNK
*FX. WHOP
*FX. WHIP
YEAH, WELL ...
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO STONES, YOU REALLY ARE GOOD.
*FX. FLAP FLAP
*FX. COOO
I'VE SURVIVED 'CAUSE OF THESE AND MY WITS.
AND YOUR IMPUDENCE AND DEPRAVITY ...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN STAND UP TO AN ADULT IN A FAIR FIGHT.
TWO-HANDED THROWIN'. NOW *THAT'S* SKILL.
GOT SOME MEAT!
BIG HAUL TODAY.

.....
*FX. CLENCH
*FX. ZHAAAAAH
*KLAK
*KLAK
*KLAK
URAHHH!
WHOA.

*VNN
*FLAPA
OH, MY ...
*DENK

ACTUALLY, NO. YOU WERE *REALLY* ON A ROLL THERE.
R... REALLY ?
SON OF A BITCH! I KNEW IT!
AN ELF'S WORK IS NEVER DONE
WIELDING WITH BOTH HANDS SO YOU CAN FEINT WAS ALSO A GOOD IDEA.
USE YOUR SMALL SIZE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE AND ATTACK FROM BELOW, 'CAUSE MOST FIGHTERS DON'T EXPECT LOW BLOWS.
ABOUT WHAT ?
HEY. YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YOU'D BEST LAND YOUR LAST STRIKE WHERE YOU CAN SEE GARMENTS. IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PENETRATE ARMOR WITH *YOUR* STRENGTH.
BUT IF YOU ONLY ATTACK FROM BELOW, YOUR ENEMIES'LL GET USED TO IT. YOU NEED A PLAN THEY CAN'T SEE THROUGH.
UH-HUH...
.....

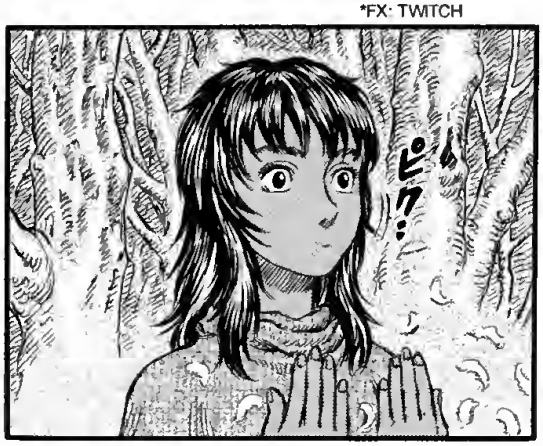
YEAH, BUT...!
AREN'T YOU LAYIN' THE GROUNDWORK EVERY DAY ?
EVERYTHING ABOUT US IS DIFFERENT, INCLUDING FIGHTING STYLES.
.....
FOR STARTERS, YOU WON'T GET ANY-WHERE IMITATIN' ME, RIGHT ?
YOU SURE ABOUT A NOVICE LIKE ME LEARNIN' THESE KINDS OF IMPROVISED TACTICS?
THEN HOW 'BOUT THE TRADITIONAL SCHOOL OF ELF DIMENSION STYLE?
AIN'T TRAININ' ABOUT PRACTICIN' BASICS FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE LEARNIN' TECHNIQUES AND STUFF?
TALK ABOUT PATIENT.
*TMP
*TMP
トン
トン
OR DO YOU PLAN TO WAIT AND TRAIN FOR DECADES TO BECOME SOME MASTER BEFORE GOIN' OUT TO THE BATTLEFIELD?
IN THAT CASE ...
...ALL YOU CAN DO IS WORK WITH WHAT YOU'VE CURRENTLY GOT.
YOU BET YOUR ASS I DON'T !!
Y...


YOU DON'T JUST HAVE ONE OPPONENT, AND THERE'S ARROWS AND CANNONBALLS FLYIN' AROUND. YOU CAN'T SURVIVE ONLY ON SWORD SKILLS. THAT SAID, IT AIN'T UNCOMMON FOR SOME HALF-ASSED MASTER TO GET SWARMED AND KILLED BY SOME GANG WANTIN' TO GET FAMOUS.
BESIDES, A BATTLEFIELD'S DIFFERENT FROM EXHIBITION GAMES.
ISN'T THAT...
...HOW YOU'VE MADE IT THIS FAR?
THEN, HOW DO YOU...
I TOLD YOU ALREADY. STRAIN WHAT FEW WITS YOU HAVE AND THINK FOR YOURSELF.
.....
THAT WAS COOOOLD.
ON THAT NOTE, ELF DIMENSION STYLE IS ONE OF FORCE, MAN TO MAN...
.....
WOULD YOU MIND JOINING ME IN GATHERING FIREWOOD?
RATHER KIND OF YOU.
FEH!

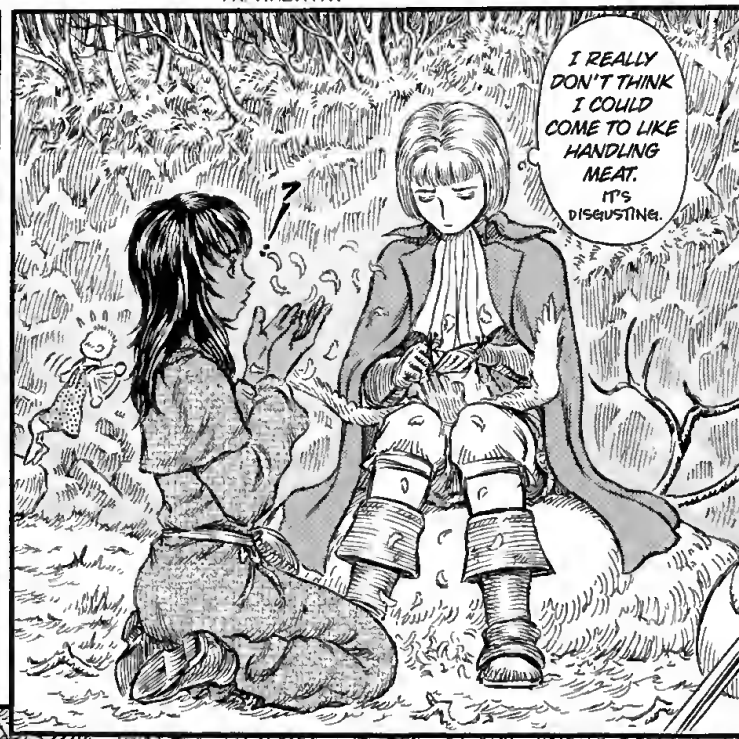
*FX: ZHAAAAAAH
ISIDRO, STOP THIS!
YOU AREN'T READY YET...!
IF YOU WON'T DO THINGS WHEN YOU CAN...
...YOU WON'T EVER DO 'EM!
FAREWELLLL!
...ON A BATTLEFIELD SINCE THE TIME I RAN OUT ON THE VILLAGE.
THINKIN' ABOUT IT, MAYBE I'VE BEEN...
I'LL BE THE ONE WHO USES THEM!!
IT WAS CARELESS OF ME TO RELY ON OTHERS!

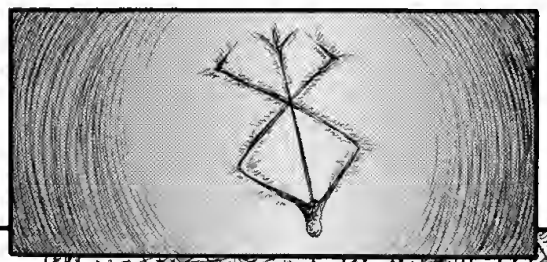
ME IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE? A COURT SERVANT? NO THANKS!
*SPLURT SPLURT
HEH! WHAT A LAUGH.
THEN WHY...?
HOW PRETENTIOUS FOR A GREENHORN.
'DRO.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, JUST WHATTA YOU PLAN TO DO ONCE YOU LEARN THE SWORD FROM ME? GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR SOMETHIN'?
I..I LOST...?
GO ON, RELY. AS YOUR MASTER, I'LL SPOIL YOU PLENTY.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO OBSTI-NATE...
COME, LEAP INTO THESE ARMS, MY SON.
*FX: PISSED
ムキィ!
QUIT READIN' PEOPLES' MONO-LOGUES!
A DISCIPLE HAS NO PRIVACY!
...OR RISIN' UP IN SOCIETY!! WHAT I'M AFTER IS...
LISTEN UP! WHAT I'M AFTER AIN'T AS PETTY AS COURT SERVICE...
'DRO'S (CURRENT) PLAN
...ULTIMATE SWORDSMAN !!!
*DAZZLE
ULTIMATE
...BEIN' THE...
*YEAHH!

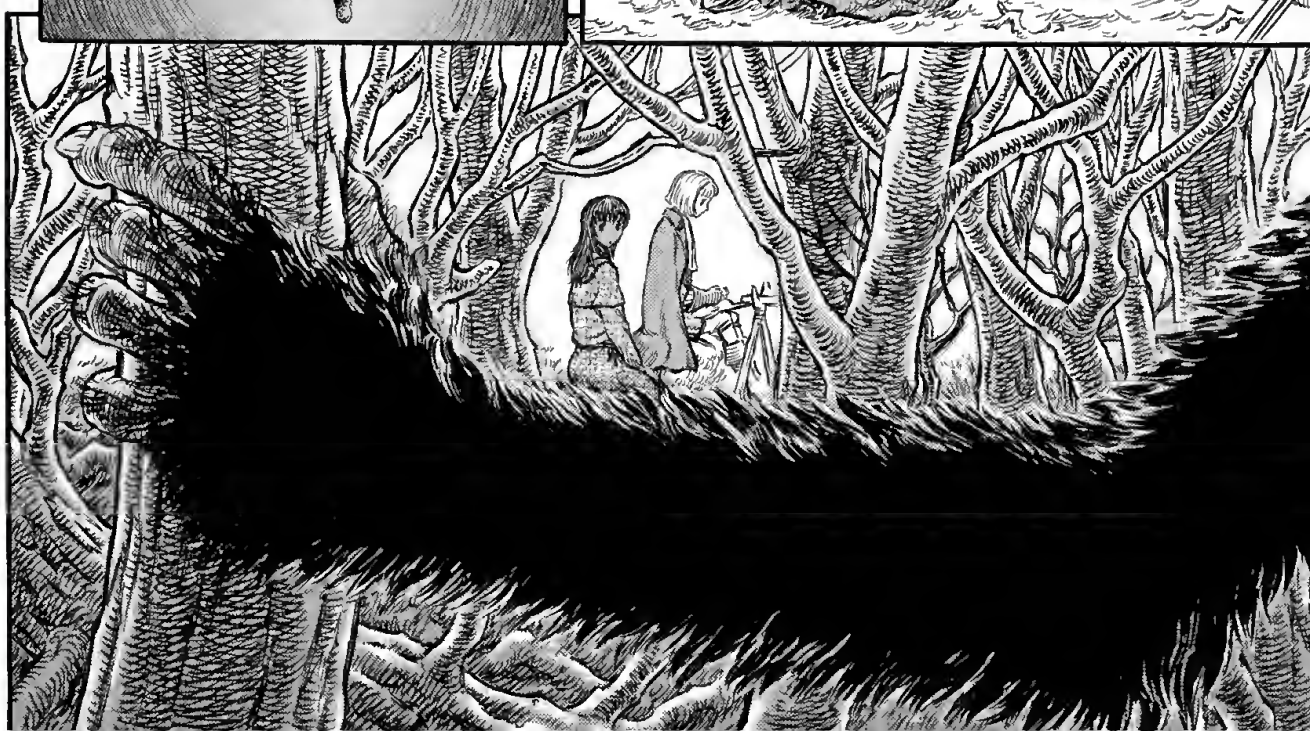
*FX: TWITCH



*FX: WHEWWW





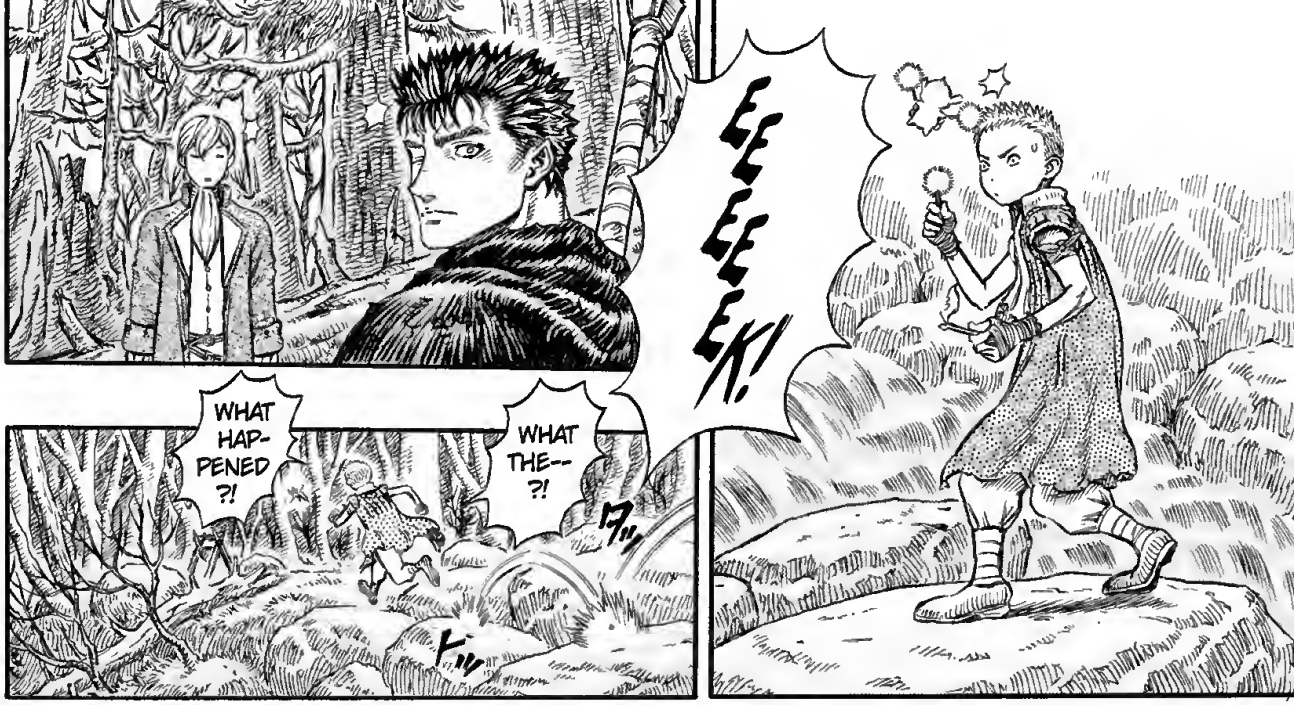


LET'S GET STARTED.
UH OH. THESE ARE RATHER DAMP.
*FX HYNN
ヒュ,
YOU GOT US ALONE SO YOU COULD SETTLE THE SCORE, RIGHT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
.....
IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD, I'M LEAVIN'.
SUDDENLY YOU'RE SENILE...
I MERELY THOUGHT I WOULD DEEPEN MY FRIENDSHIP WITH YOU... THAT I WOULD BE PERFECTLY FRANK.
MY, MY, WHAT A HOTHEADED FELLOW.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?
*PLAP
*SPIP
ヒュ,
WHAA ?

TO BE *PERFECTLY* FRANK...
...I AM THINKING HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF YOU *DIED.*
*HEH!
THERE'S THAT FACE AGAIN, FINALLY.
*FX. POK
BY GOING ALONG WITH YOU, LADY FARNESE IS EXPOSED TO DANGER.
IF I COULD, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE HER ABANDON THIS RECKLESS JOURNEY AT ONCE.
HOW-EVER...
...THIS IS WHAT SHE HERSELF WISHES.
THAT FACE, LIKE AN INFANT THAT'S CRIED ITS EYES OUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE LADY FARNESE AT ALL...
I DO NOT KNOW THAT DEFENSE-LESS SIDE OF HER.

YOU CHANGED HER.

I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND.
...IF THIS JOURNEY LEADS TO SOMETHING SUCH AS HER DEMISE...
HOWEVER...
.....
SO LONG AS LADY FARNESE CONTINUES THIS JOURNEY, AS HER ATTENDANT I WILL DO MY BEST TO GET ALONG WITH YOU.
BUT, ALAS, I SET ASIDE MY PERSONAL FEELINGS.
...THAT IS WHEN, AS YOU WISH, I SHALL OPPOSE YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL.
I DO HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
ODD-BALL.


EEEEEEK!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!
WHAT THE-- ?!

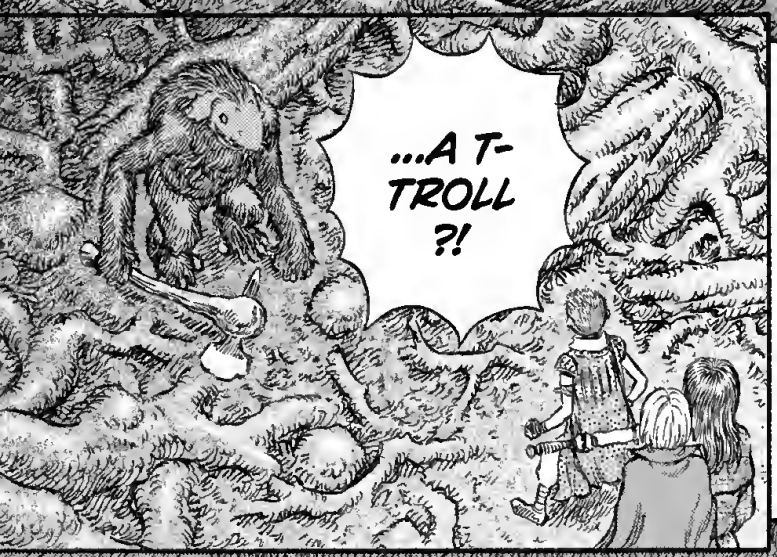
*FX. TAP TMP

AAA!
!
A BRI-GAND ?!
BASTARD!
ZHA
NOOO!!
ZHA
ZHA
AUU!!

HEY, YOU!!
JUST YOU WAIT!!
*WHOCK
THIEF'S PRIDE DOESN'T FORGIVE!
KIDNAP-PIN' THEM RIGHT IN FRONT 'A ME, YA CREEP?!
*SNATCH
*FX: VSSH
URAH!
*GROH
YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YEAH!
WHAT?
...NOT HUMAN!
THAT'S...
THIS FEELING?!
!

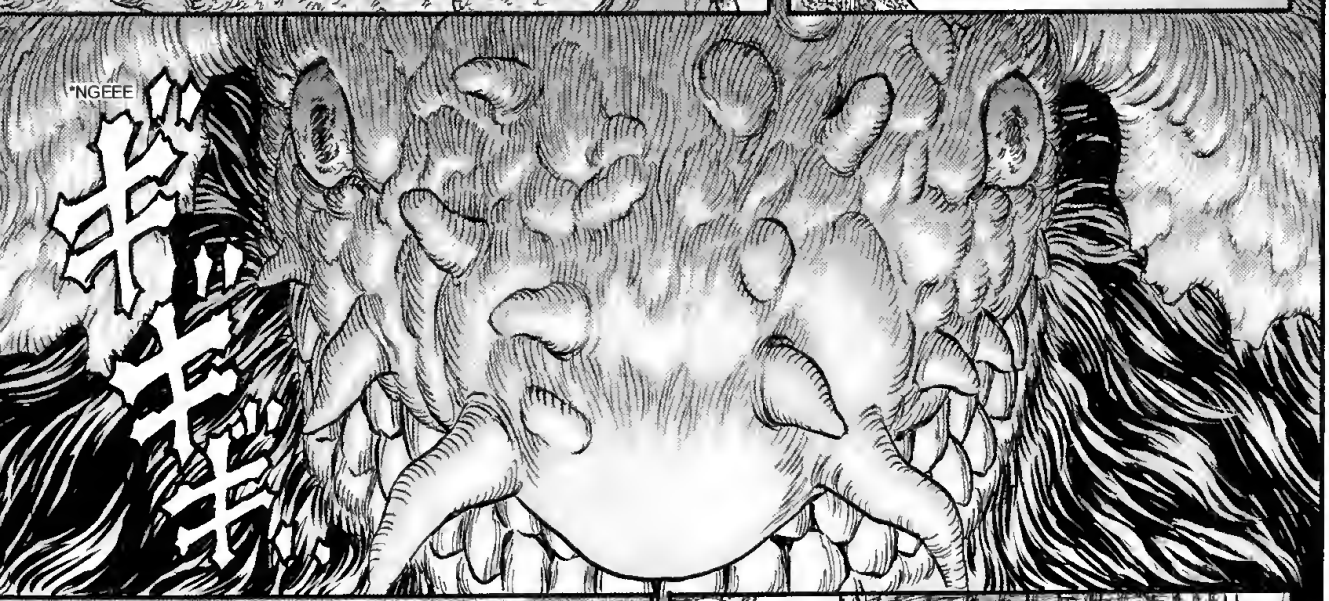
SSSSSS
ハハハハハ。

WHOA!
WHAT IS THAT THING...?!
IGHH

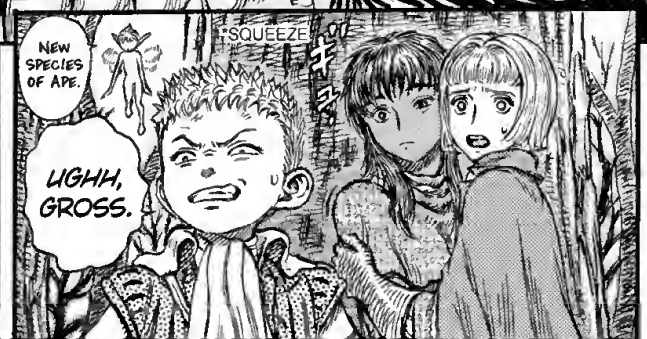

...A T-TROLL ?!

IT'S TROLLS.
BUT IT AIN'T HUMANS UP THERE.

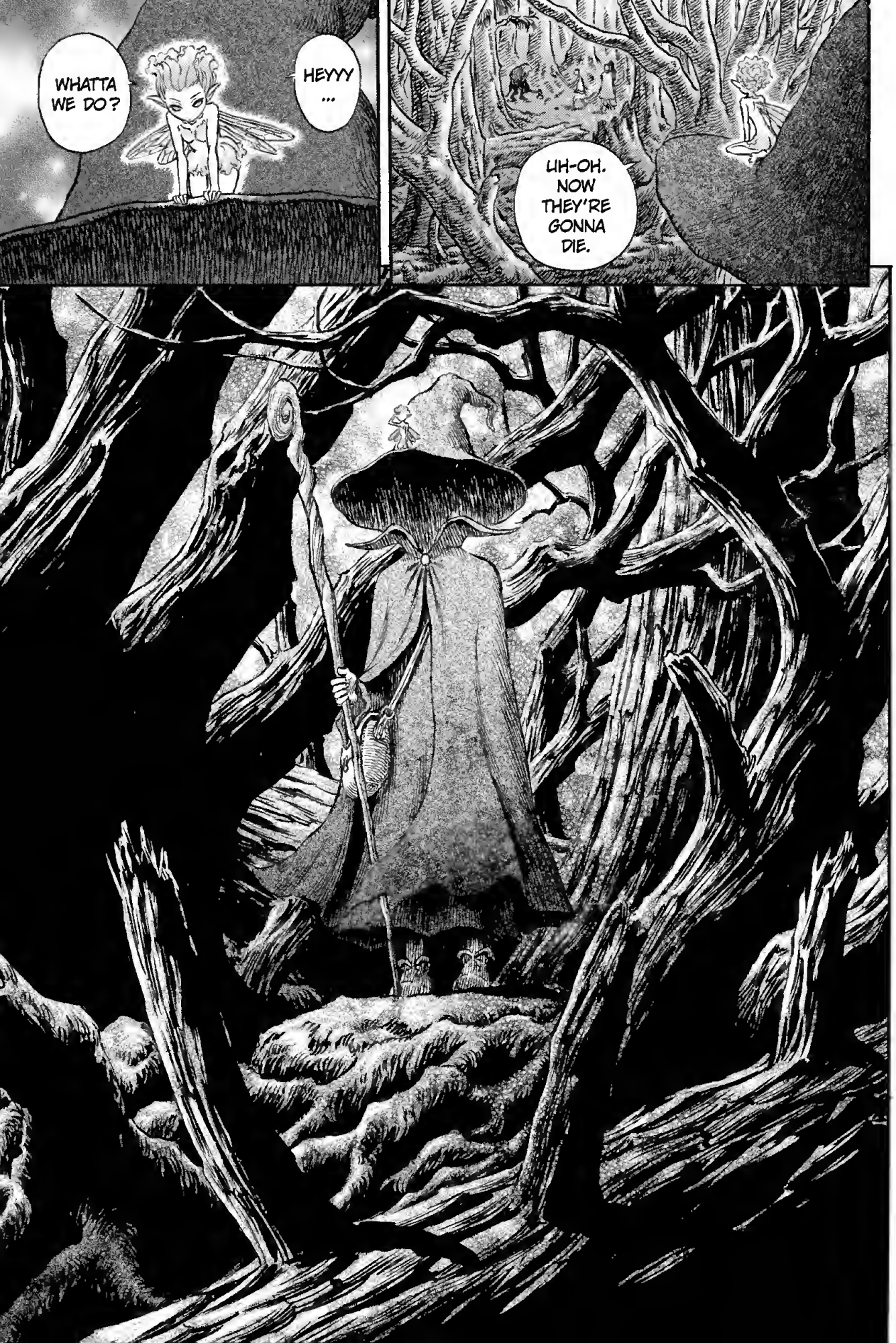
...THAT'S ...
YOU MEAN...


*NGEEE

*JAK


*SQUEEZE
NEW SPECIES OF APE.
UGHH, GROSS.

NO, WAIT.
KH...!
*FX SNATCH
*SHFF
*GOFF GOFF
H-HERE IT COMES, ISIDRO. STONES, STONES!
WE SHOULD HURRY AND GET AWAY...!!
WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSE, IT'S NOT BUILT ALL THAT BIG...
JUST ONE ENEMY.
WHA-HEY?!
I'LL TAKE IT !!!
RIGHT!


WHATTA WE DO?
HEYYY ...
UH-OH. NOW THEY'RE GONNA DIE.

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

THE WITCH

魔　女

BERSERK

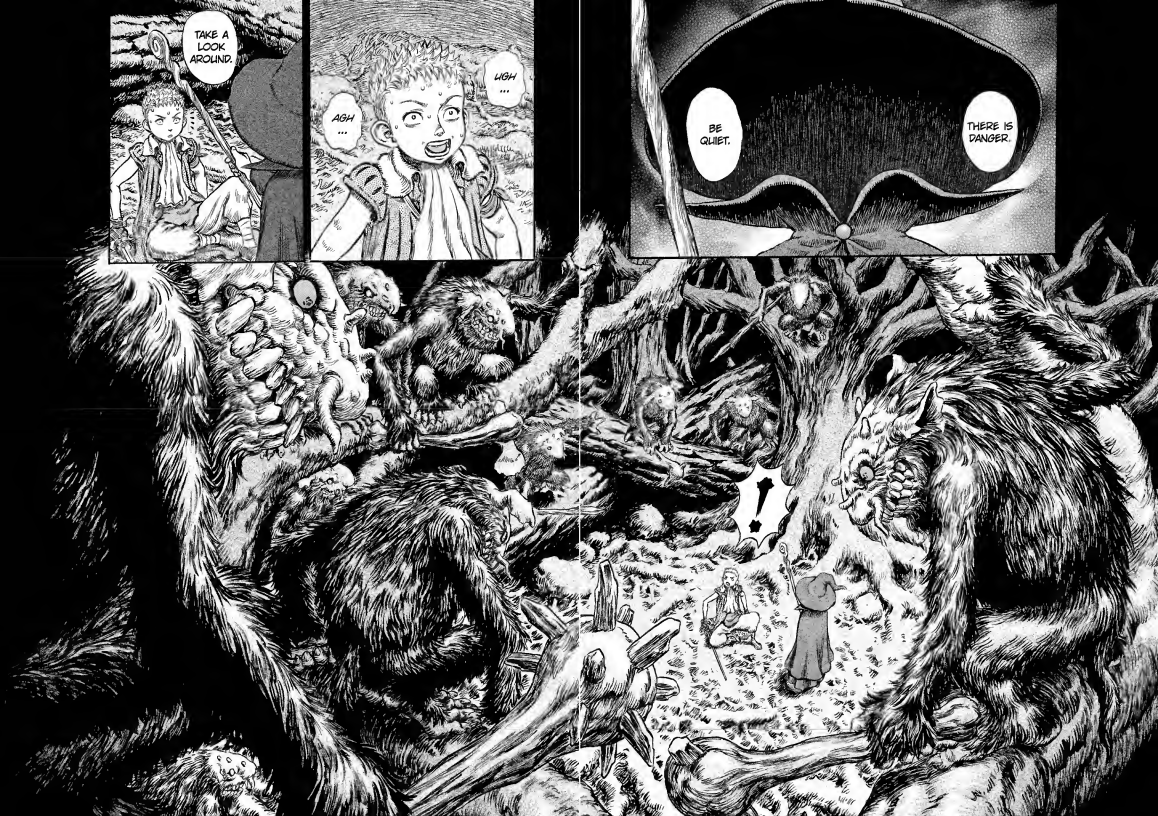
LET'S DO THIS!!
YA UGLY MON-KEY!
AH....
*BA
...AFRAAAID.
*FX HFFF HFFF
*GRIP
I'M NOT...
*GAJINNG
UOH!
OH!
OH!

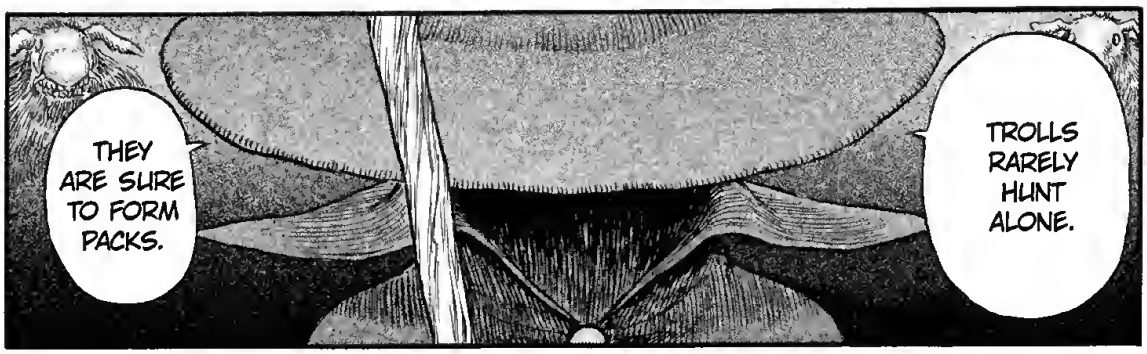
*WHOM
ISIDRO!
*FX. GYANNNG
*FX. CRACK!
*ARR
ARR
DA
KH!!
IT AIN'T NEARLY AS SLOW AS IT LOOKS!!
WHAT THE HELL?!

*WRAK
*SCOOT
*FX. THNK
*FX. WHAP
I'M DEA--
I...
BEHH!
WAH, STUPID ...!!

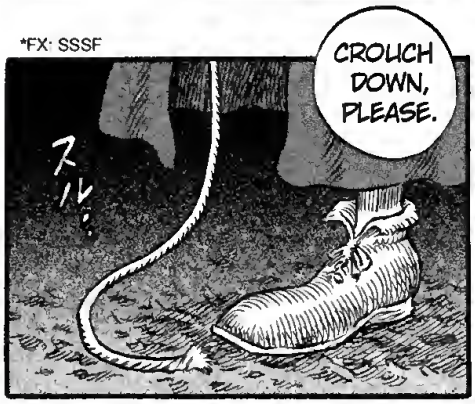
*HYNN
*FX: PSH
*FX: SPRING
*FX: GYAW!
!
?!
BERRIES ...?
DON'T MOVE.

WH-WHAT THE--?!
IS THAT...?!
WHAT ...?

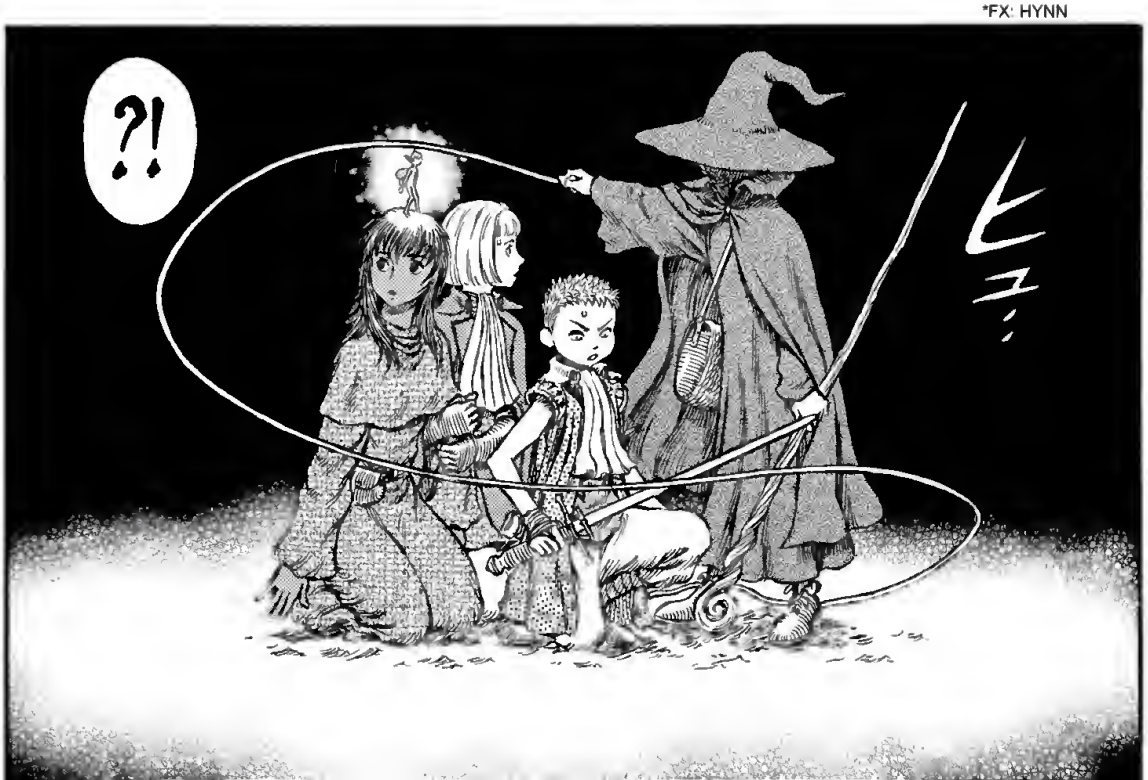

TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
AGH ...
UGH ...
BE QUIET.
THERE IS DANGER.
!

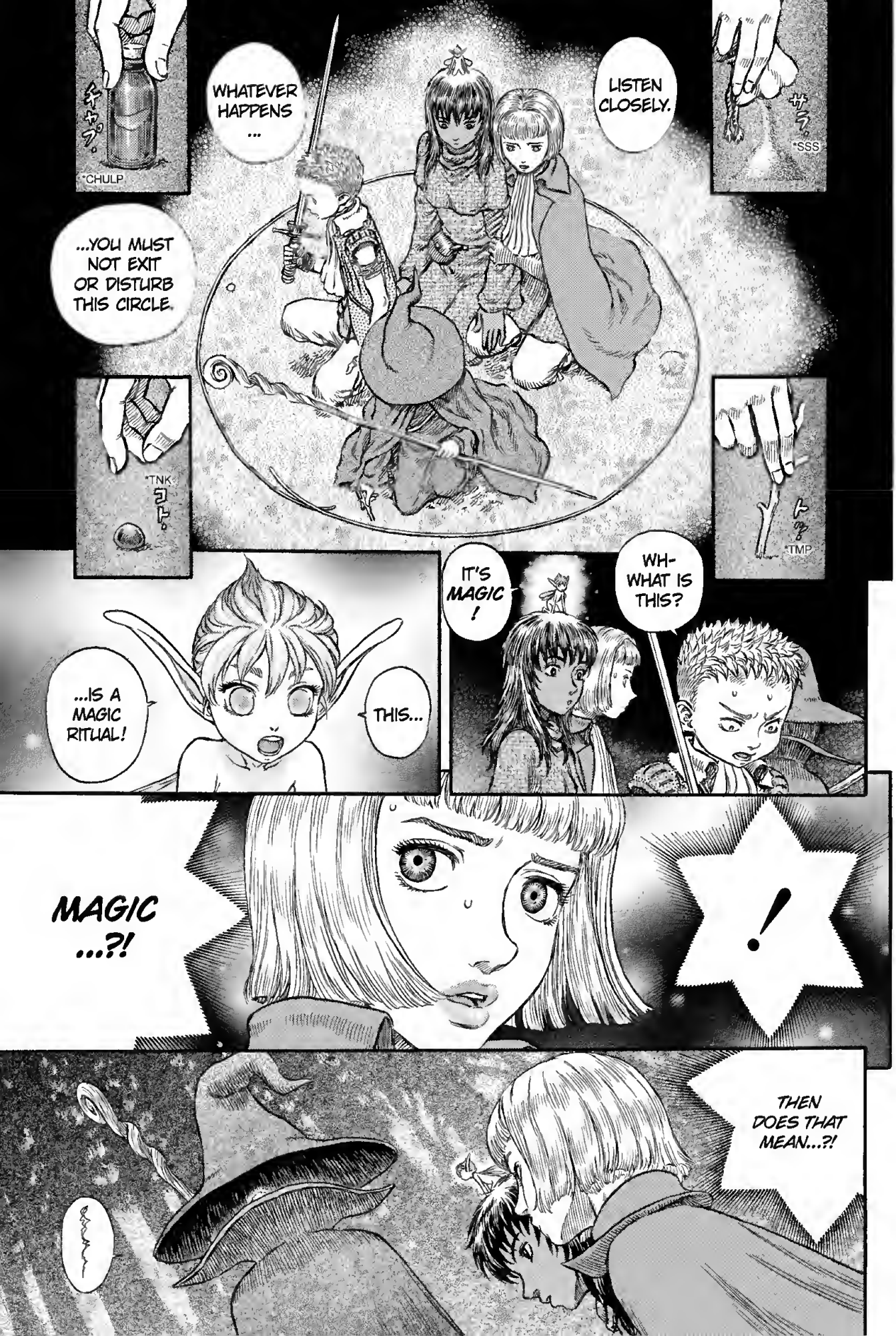


*FX: SSSF



*FX: HYNN




*CHULP
WHATEVER HAPPENS ...
LISTEN CLOSELY.
*SSS
...YOU MUST NOT EXIT OR DISTURB THIS CIRCLE.
*TNK
*TMP
IT'S MAGIC!
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
...IS A MAGIC RITUAL!
THIS...
MAGIC ...?!
!
THEN DOES THAT MEAN...?!

AN ELF!!
!
ONE A' ME! WOWEE!
HMHM ...
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.
THAAAT'S RIGHT!
SHE'S A WITCH!
*ZHMP.
...SO YOU BETTER SHUSH AND NOT BOTHER HER, IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE. ♡
WHAT SHE'S CHANTIN' RIGHT NOW IS A SPELL TO PROTECT ALL YOU FROM THE SHAGGIES...
EGHE-HYEH.
ADONAI TSABAUT.
ARGRAH.
*SWSS
*SWSS
YODO HEEH VAU HEEH.
WHOA! WHAT'S HIS DEAL?!
I'VE MISSED YAAA! ♡
HE SHRUNK!

*GRAHH
*LUNGE
AGH HHH!!
IGH!
*GWEH
*GEH GEH
*GYAH
*GYAH
H-HEY!
*FX VMM VMM
TH-THEY'RE GONNA COME S-SWARMIN'!!
EEEE!
*ZZZT

HUFF
WHAT... WAS THAT LIGHT...?!
LIKE I SAID, MAGIC
*F.X. NGA NGA
*SSSS
*SYNNN
*SYNNN
*SYNNN

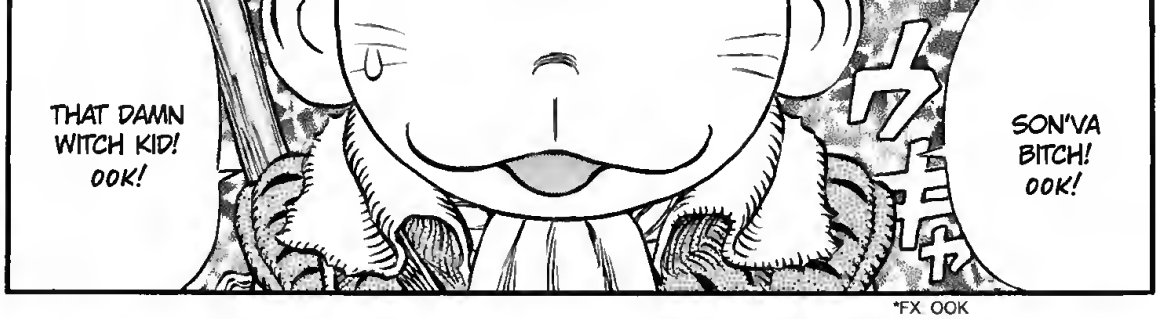
*NRAHH
キャア
*NRAHH
キャア
ホホホ
YOU OWE US ONE.
*HO HO HO
*WHEWWW
SII—
SHAAFE.
ぷぴゅ！
...
WHAT'S GOIN' ON...?!
WOW ...!!
ザザザ
*FX. ZHA ZHA ZHA
*BATHUMP
ドクン。
A WITCH...
*BATHUMP
ドクン。
(nervous)
OD?
ELEM-ENTA?
DON'T BOTHER TELLIN' THESE GUYS STUFF LIKE THAT.
AFTER ALL, TO THOSE NOT OF THIS WORLD, IT IS THE SAME AS BEING SHOT WITH FIRE ARROWS.
I USED HAIR AS A CATALYST TO PROJECT THE POWER OF FIRE ELEMENTALS ALONG THE FLOW OF OD.

BEGGING YOUR PARDON...
IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU TOOK YOUR LEAVE OF THIS REGION QUICKLY.
PLEASE HEED SOME ADVICE.
WE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT WE'RE PRETTY USED TO MONSTERS LIKE THOSE.
N-NO NEED TO WORRY.
...BUT BASED ON WHAT I SAW...
...THE NEXT TIME, YOUR SWORD SKILLS WILL COST YOU YOUR LIFE.
WHAAAT ...?!
YOU GOT SCHOOLED, RIGHT WHERE IT HURTS.
*FX: GLOMP
A LITTLE LEARNIN'S A DANGEROUS THING.
H-HEY, WAIT. OLD HAG!!
I MUST GO.
*FX: WOOP
*FX: SWIP

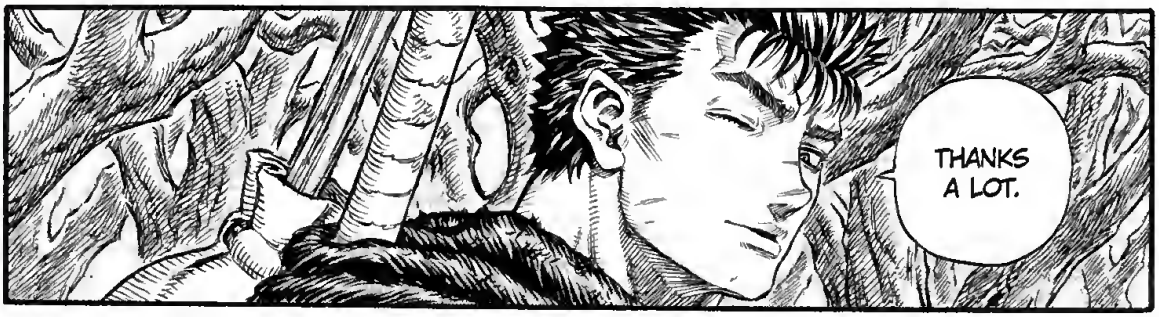
OHHH, NOW YOU DONE IT.
...
...
*GROPE
WH- WHAT THE...?!
THOSE AREN'T AN OLD HAG'S!!
FOR THAT MATTER, THEY'RE HARDLY THERE!

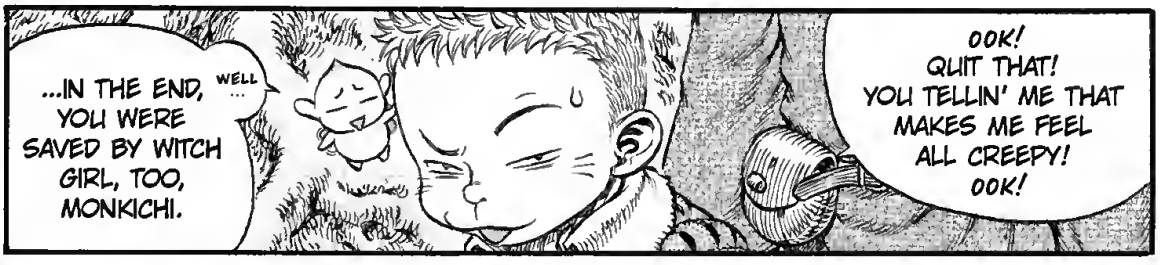
A KID...?!
*BONK
LADY FARNESE !!
HEY, WHAT GIVES ?!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?
WELL ...
WHAT IS HE DOING ?
*OOK OOK OOK
ウキキッ
OOGA OOGA! HAVE AN ACORN, MONKICHI.

THEY'RE A BUNCH'A DOLTS.
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T FORMULATE WITH GROUP MAGIC, THEY SAW THE PENTAGRAM.
HAS THIS REGION BEEN INVADED BY THE OTHER LAYER TO SUCH AN EXTENT?
.....
SHALL WE LEAVE HIM BE? HE SEEMS TO ENJOY THIS.
THAT MAN, TOO...
*FX OOGA OOGA
AND THAT GIRL...
...THOSE TWO?
WHO ARE...
...THEY'RE ATTRACTING DISTORTION.
IT'S LIKE...



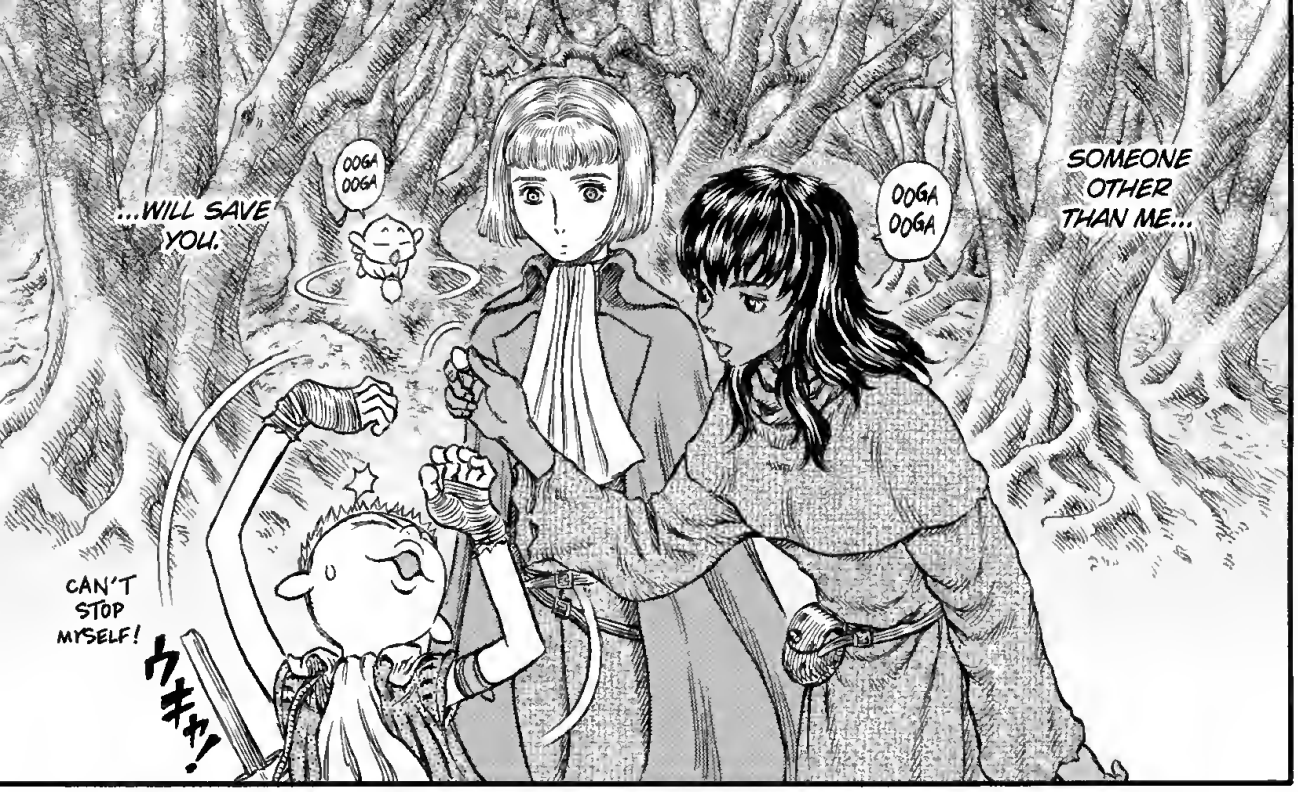
*FX OOK



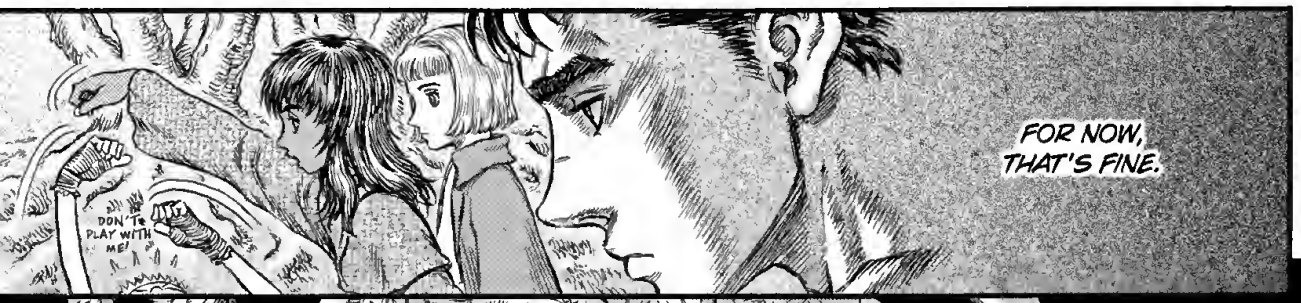


*FX· EEEE!

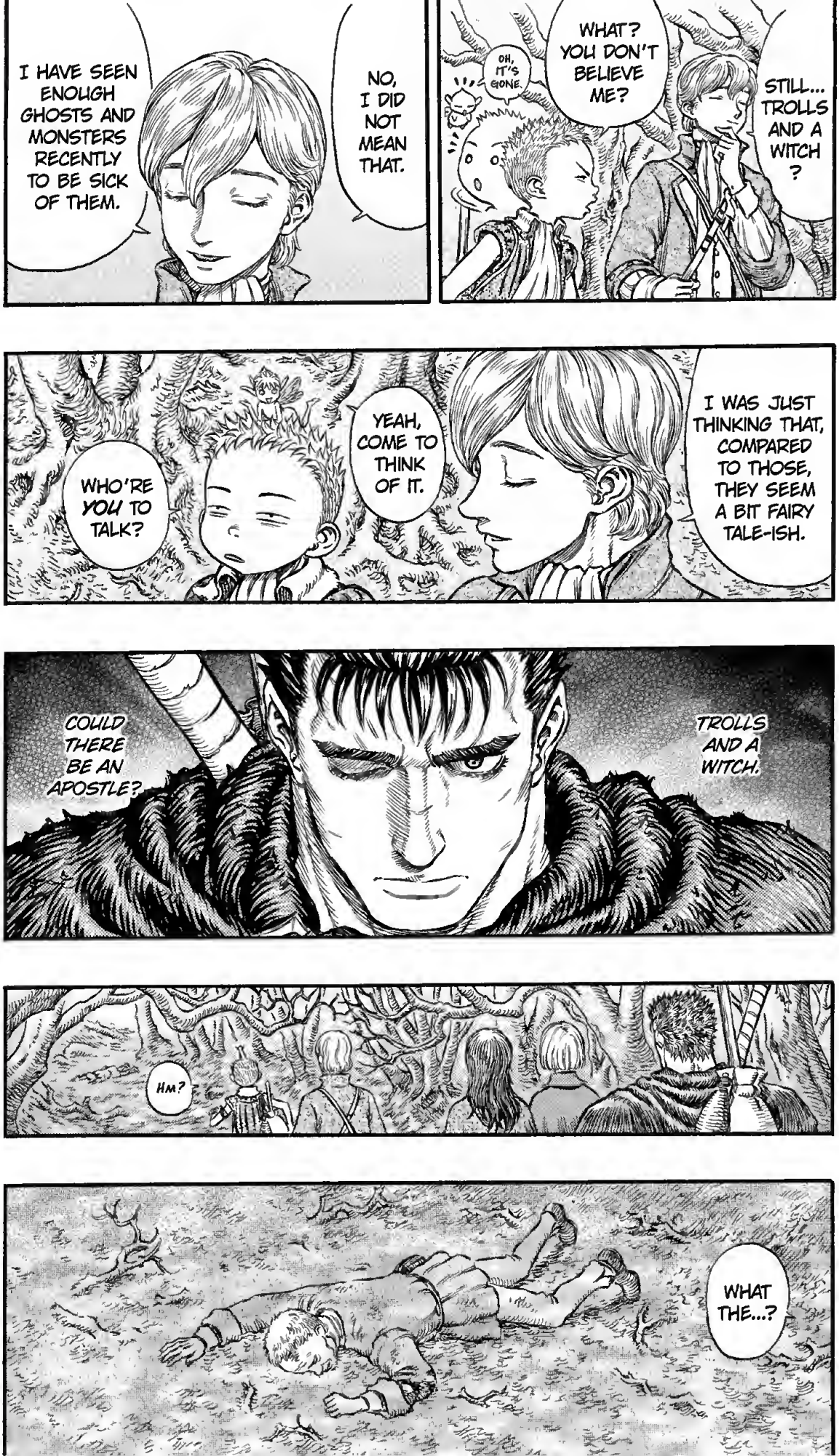
...NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.
I'D RATHER...
?
*SCOOT
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE COMPLETELY TAKEN TO LADY FARNESE.
W... WELL, PERHAPS ...


...WILL SAVE YOU.
OOGA OOGA
OOGA OOGA
SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME...
CAN'T STOP MYSELF!
ウキャ!

*FX. OOKEE!


DON'T PLAY WITH ME!
FOR NOW, THAT'S FINE.

I WOULD...
...ONLY HURT YOU.

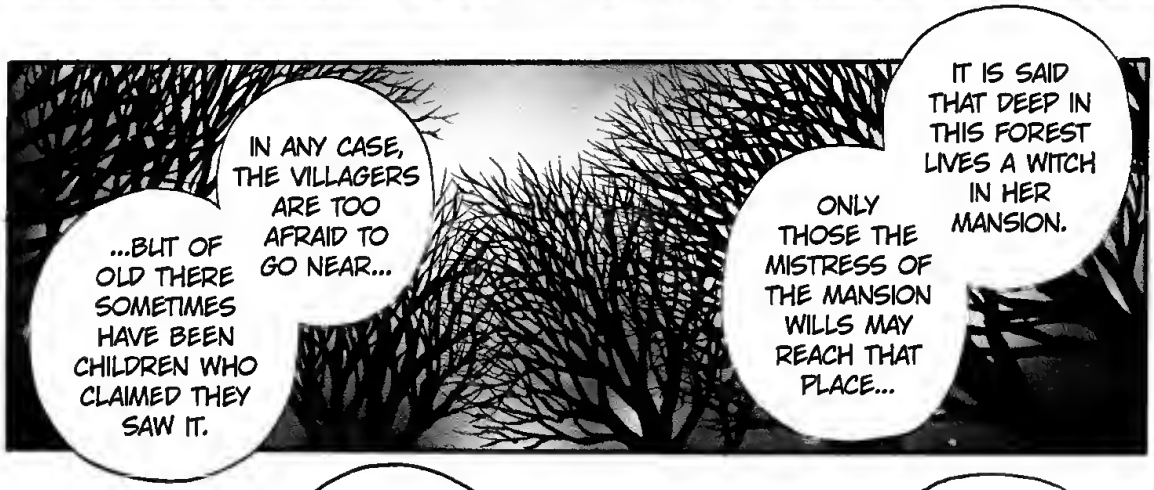

I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH GHOSTS AND MONSTERS RECENTLY TO BE SICK OF THEM.
NO, I DID NOT MEAN THAT.
OH, IT'S GONE.
WHAT? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
STILL... TROLLS AND A WITCH ?
WHO'RE YOU TO TALK?
YEAH, COME TO THINK OF IT.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT, COMPARED TO THOSE, THEY SEEM A BIT FAIRY TALE-ISH.
COULD THERE BE AN APOSTLE?
TROLLS AND A WITCH.
HM?
WHAT THE...?

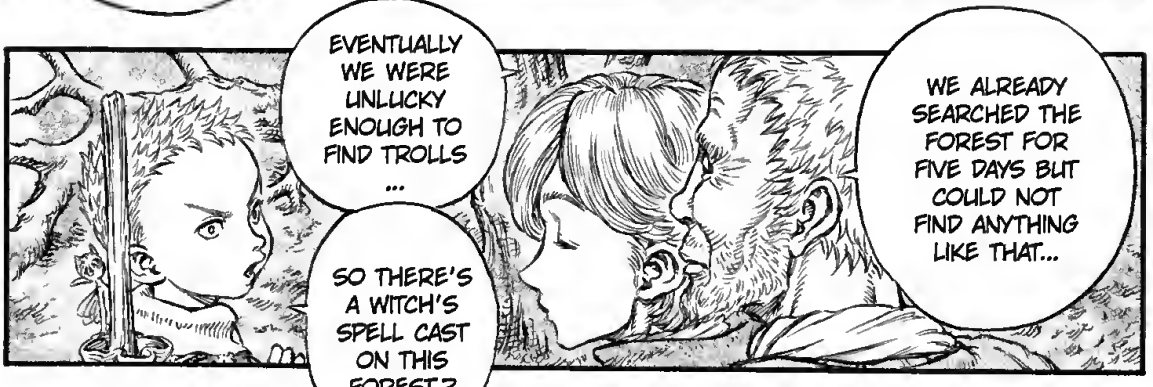
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOU SAVED ME.
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED ?
WE'RE NOT GONNA EATCHA.
HERE, HOLD STILL.
THE SUN'S STILL HIGH, ANYWAY.
FINE BY ME.
IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN SEE HIM THERE?
THERE WERE FIVE OTHERS WITH ME, BUT THEY ALL...
WE WERE ATTACKED BY TROLLS.
YOU WILL NEVER MAKE IT BACK ALONE WITH THOSE INJURIES.
MY VILLAGE IS ABOUT AN HOUR FROM HERE.
ARE YOU FROM AROUND HERE, SIR?
THE TROLLS, HUH...?
...BUT THIS AREA HAS FOR A LONG TIME HELD MANY LEGENDS OF FAIRIES, WITCHES, AND THE LIKE.
I AM FROM ENOCH VILLAGE. I'M MORGAN.
AS TRAVELERS, YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THIS...
THERE IS SOMEWHERE I ABSOLUTELY MUST GO FIRST.
I APOLOGIZE, BUT I CANNOT RETURN HOME JUST YET...
?

CURSED NIGHT?
...UNTIL THAT CURSED NIGHT CAME.
...THERE WERE SOME WHO SAID THEY HAD ACTUALLY SEEN THEM. BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO HARD PROOF, AND EVEN AMONG NATIVES THERE WERE NOT MANY WHO BELIEVED THE LEGENDS THROUGH AND THROUGH...
ALTHOUGH THAT IS THE REALM OF FABLE AND FOLKLORE...
JUST LIKE THEY HAD FALLEN OUT OF A TALE...
...THEY EMERGED FROM THE DARKNESS.
...A PACK OF TROLLS ATTACKED THE VILLAGE.
THE FIRST NIGHT OF WINTER...
.....
AS IF ALL THAT HAD BEEN BEFORE WAS A LIE...
YES, EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD HAS CHANGED.
NOT ONLY DO THEY RUIN THE FIELDS AND STEAL LIVESTOCK...
THEY EVEN CARRY OFF OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

A LEGEND FOR A LEGEND...
NOW WE ARE RAIDED BY CREATURES OF LEGEND... IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE VILLAGE IS WIPED OUT!
BECAUSE OF THE WAR WITH THE KUSHAN, HEAVY TAXES ARE IMPOSED ON THE PEOPLE. ENOCH VILLAGE WAS POOR TO BEGIN WITH, AND IT WILL BE ALL WE CAN DO NOT TO STARVE TO DEATH THIS WINTER!
...WOULD HE EVER SEND SOLDIERS FOR SUCH NONSENSE LIKE TROLLS?!
EVEN IF WE WERE TO TELL HIM...
OUR LORD HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO VRITANNIS, AND THE CASTLE IS NOW EMPTY.
THEN DO YOU PLAN TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO YOUR LORD?
THEN WHAT'LL YOU DO?
WE THOUGHT WE WOULD REQUEST HELP FROM A WITCH.
A WITCH.
A WITCH ...?!

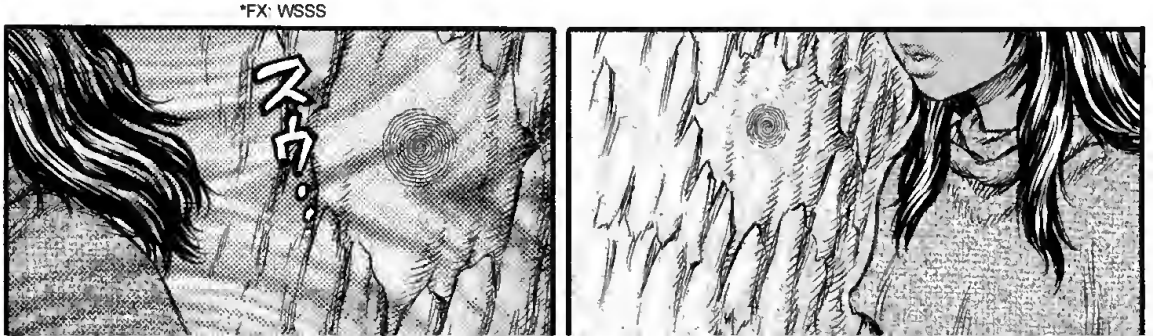
.....


IT IS SAID THAT DEEP IN THIS FOREST LIVES A WITCH IN HER MANSION.
ONLY THOSE THE MISTRESS OF THE MANSION WILLS MAY REACH THAT PLACE...
IN ANY CASE, THE VILLAGERS ARE TOO AFRAID TO GO NEAR...
...BUT OF OLD THERE SOMETIMES HAVE BEEN CHILDREN WHO CLAIMED THEY SAW IT.


WE ALREADY SEARCHED THE FOREST FOR FIVE DAYS BUT COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
EVENTUALLY WE WERE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND TROLLS ...
SO THERE'S A WITCH'S SPELL CAST ON THIS FOREST?

THEN WOULDN'T IT BE A WASTE OF TIME NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU SEARCHED ?

*FX: WSSS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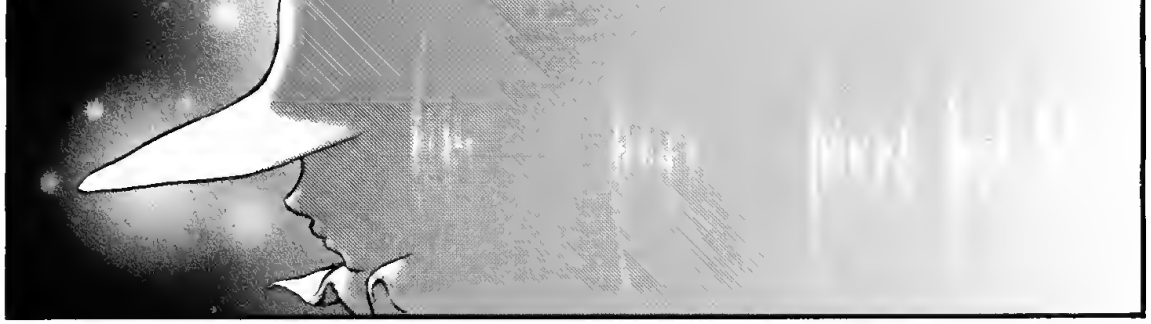
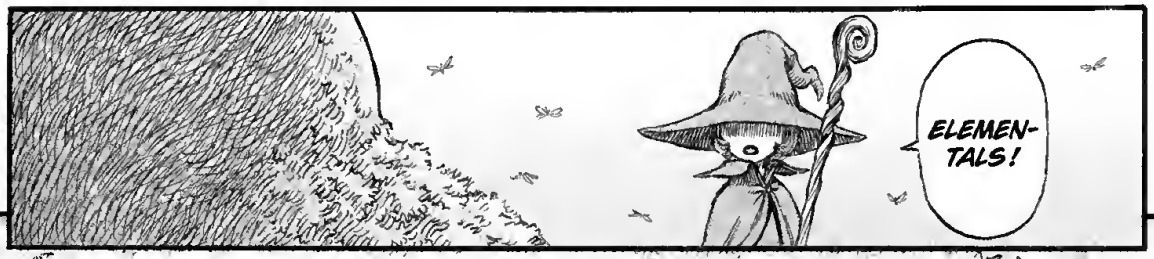
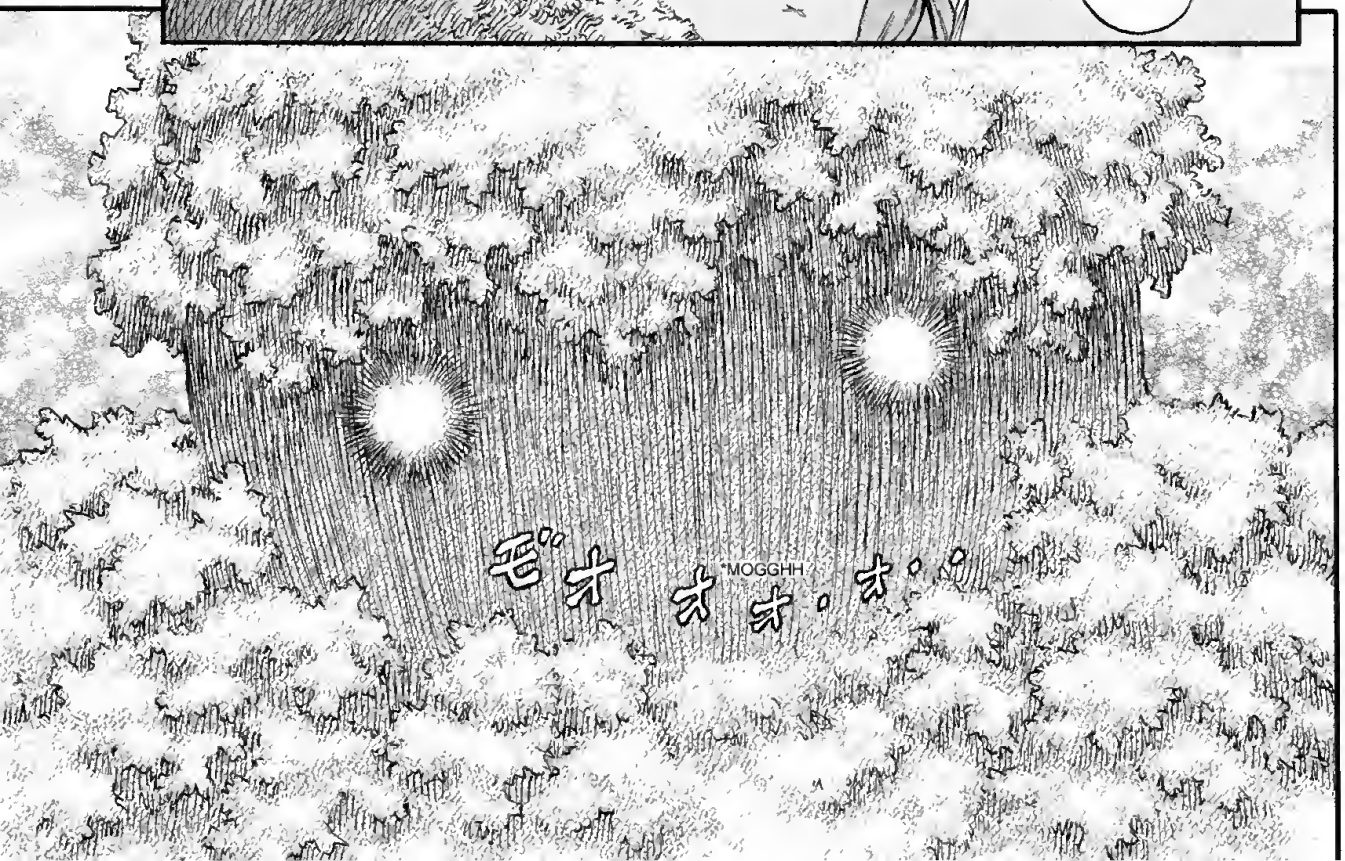
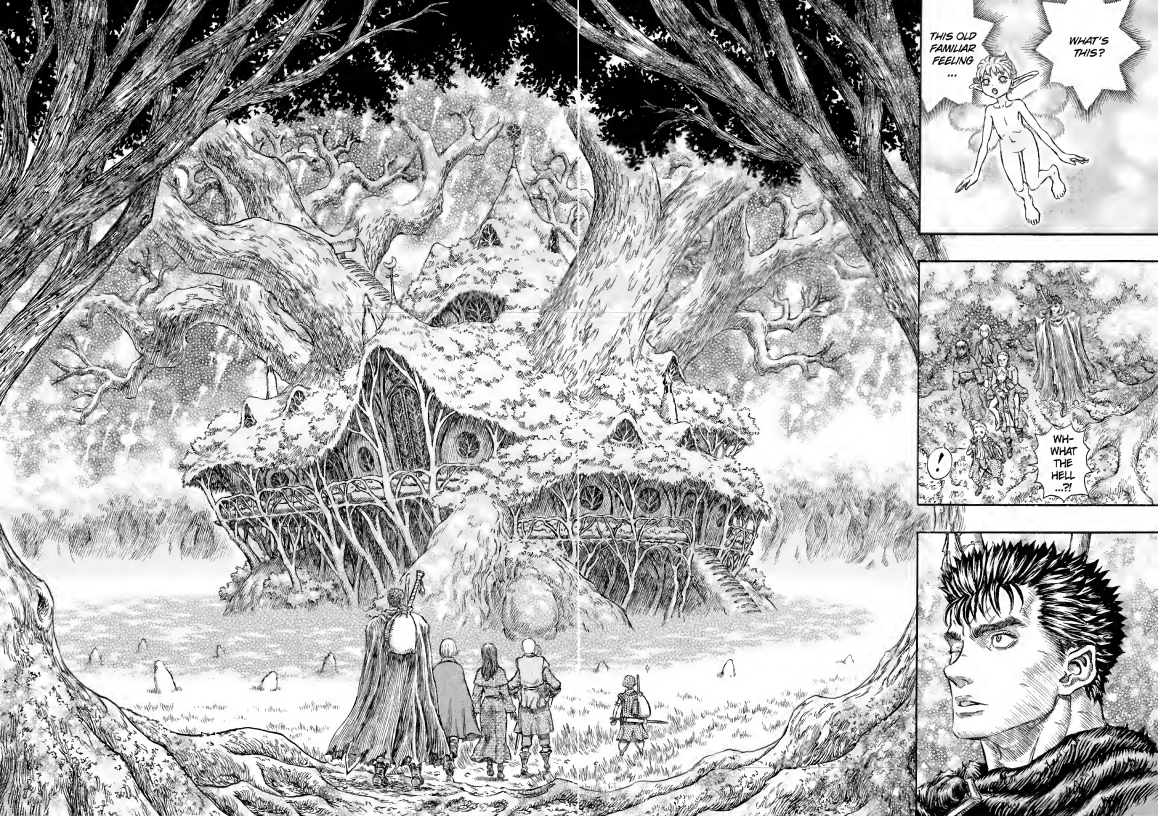


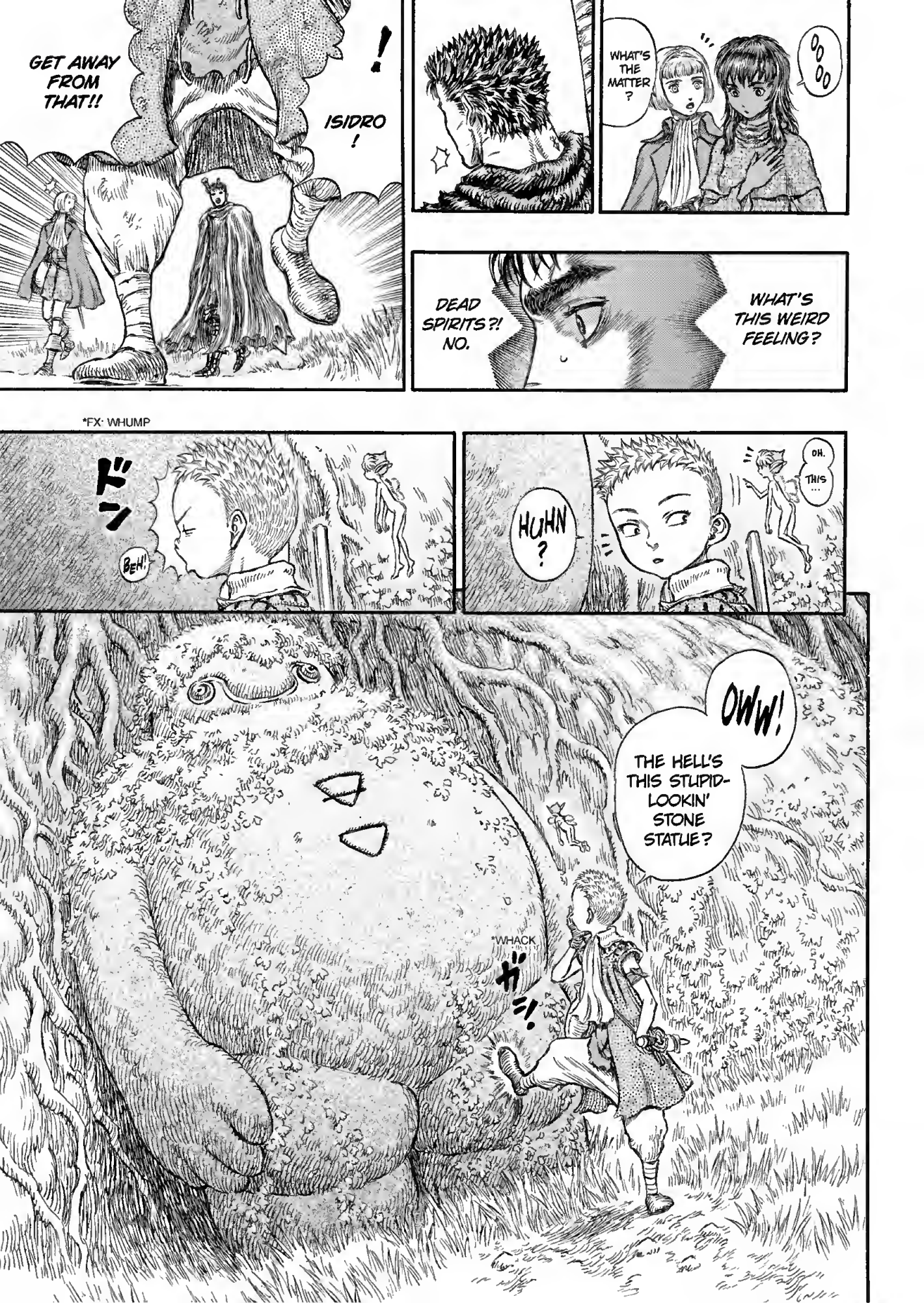
SOME-ONE'S PASSED THROUGH THE BARRIER ?!
IMPOSSI-BLE !!


ELEMEN-TALS!


モオオオ。。。
"MOGGHH"


THIS OLD FAMILIAR FEELING ...
WHAT'S THIS?
!
WH-WHAT THE HELL ...?!

WHA ...?
WILD. THIS IS JUST LIKE A FAIRY TALE!
... SPARKLY THINGS ?
SOME ...
HEY, HEY, WE FOUND IT ALREADY, MISTER.
OHH ...
IT REALLY WASN'T A DREAM ...
EH?
WAIT, IS THE HOUSE GROWIN' OUT OF THE TREES ?
TREES GROWIN' OUT OF A HOUSE !
OHHH WOW!
NOW WHAT KINDA PAYBACK SHOULD I GET ?!
YOU'LL JUST GET TURNED INTO MONKICHI AGAIN
THAT WITCH KID'S PROBABLY HERE, TOO...
*WHAP
ONE OF THOSE CHILDREN WAS ME.
NO ONE BELIEVED ME, AND SO MANY YEARS PASSED THAT EVEN I CAME TO THINK IT WAS A DREAM.
DID I NOT SAY SOME CHILDREN SAW THIS MANSION LONG AGO?


GET AWAY FROM THAT!!
!
ISIDRO !
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
DEAD SPIRITS ?! NO.
WHAT'S THIS WEIRD FEELING?
*FX: WHUMP
ドン
BEH!
HUHN ?
OH. THIS ....
OWW!
THE HELL'S THIS STUPID-LOOKIN' STONE STATUE?
*WHACK
ガ=!

...USED AS A HELPER OR HOUSE GUARD BY WITCHES.
IT'S A MUD PUPPET ...
GUAR ...
ズズ
*ZSH
IT'S GOT AN AFRO! OH, THAT'S FUNNY, WITCH!
THIS ISN'T A STONE STATUE.
IT'S CALLED A GOLEM.
DA HA HA...!
*WHOOM
DAAAAA!

ヴォォ...
*FX. WHOMM
N-NO WAY!
NICE AFRO!
*SHONK

*SHOM
*OHHH
*SLICE
*ZHA
*MOGGGH
*CHFFF
Y... YEAH!...
*ZNNN

!
MR. MORGAN !!
W-WAIT, PLEASE! LISTEN TO...!!
KEEP BACK, MISTER !!
THESE THINGS WON'T LISTEN TO TALK!!
FX: ZMMM
*FX: ZOMMM
*ZHOP
NO, SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT...
DEAD SPIRITS ...? APOSTLE MINIONS ?!
GEH! THEY GREW BACK!

!
EEEEK!
AAAA!!

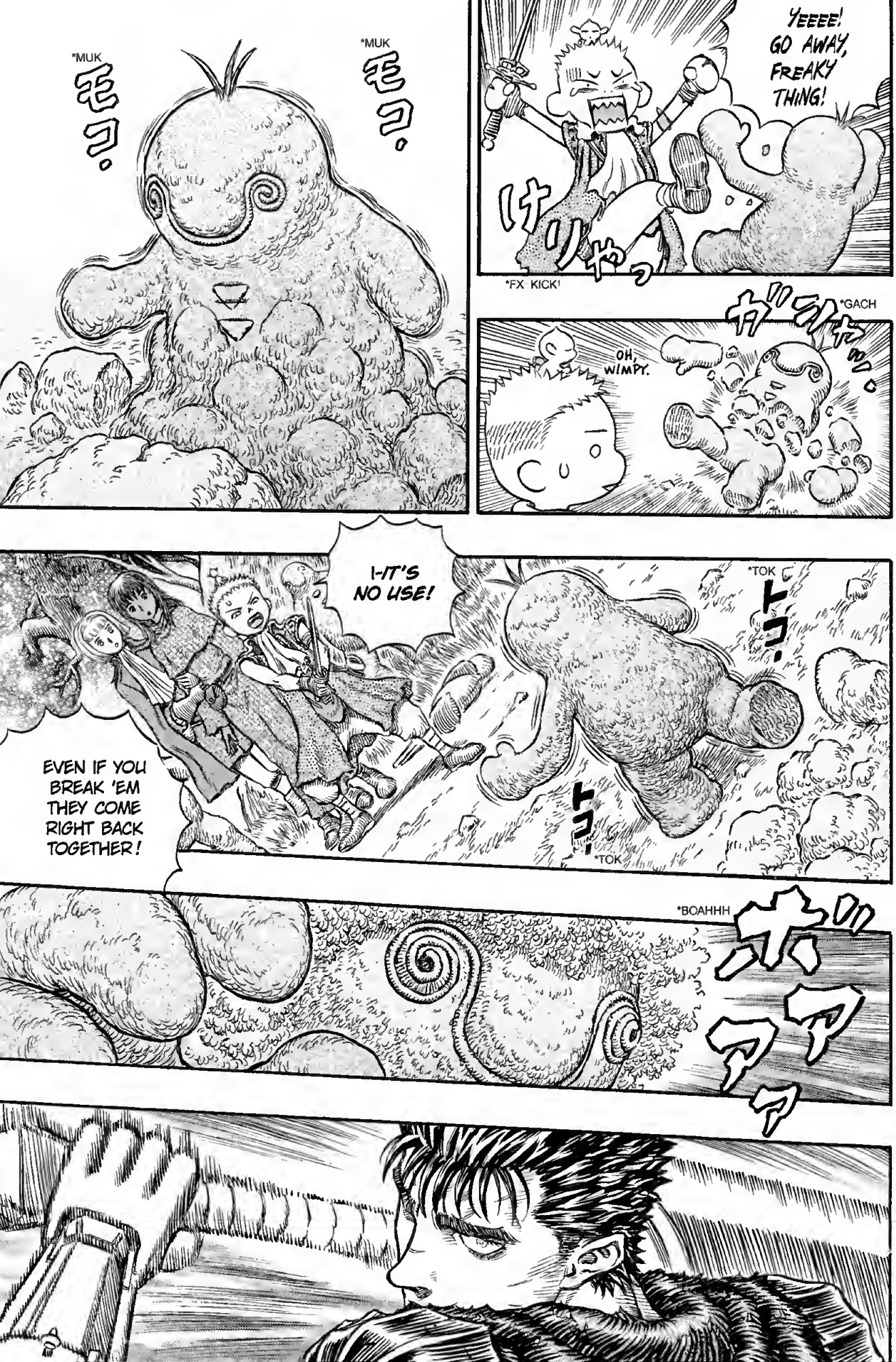
*MNNNN
ヴウウウ…
モオオオオ…
*MOGGGHHH…
OH, MY...
SHOULD I BE SCARED OR JUST LAUGH...?
WHO'LL WIN, DIRTBAG OR BAGS-O-DIRT?
*PBBT

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE, PART 2

霊樹の館②

*BOHHHH
ボオオオ・オ・・
*HMNNNNG
ムゥゥゥゥ・
THE HORDES, THE HORDES, HERE THEY COME!
*BAHHH
ハアアア・・
*FX TOK TOK
トコ・トコ
*POINK
ピタ


*MUK
モコ。
*MUK
モコ。
YEEEE! GO AWAY, FREAKY THING!
けりゃっ
*FX: KICK!
*GACH
ガゴォォ
OH, WIMPY.
I-IT'S NO USE!
EVEN IF YOU BREAK 'EM THEY COME RIGHT BACK TOGETHER!
*TOK
トコ。
*TOK
トコ。
*BOAHHH
ボアアア

*DOSH
*SLASH
*CHUNG
*MUK
*MUK
THIS NEVER ENDS.
TCH!
*VOOOOO

SURE ENOUGH, IT'S THEM AGAIN.
.....

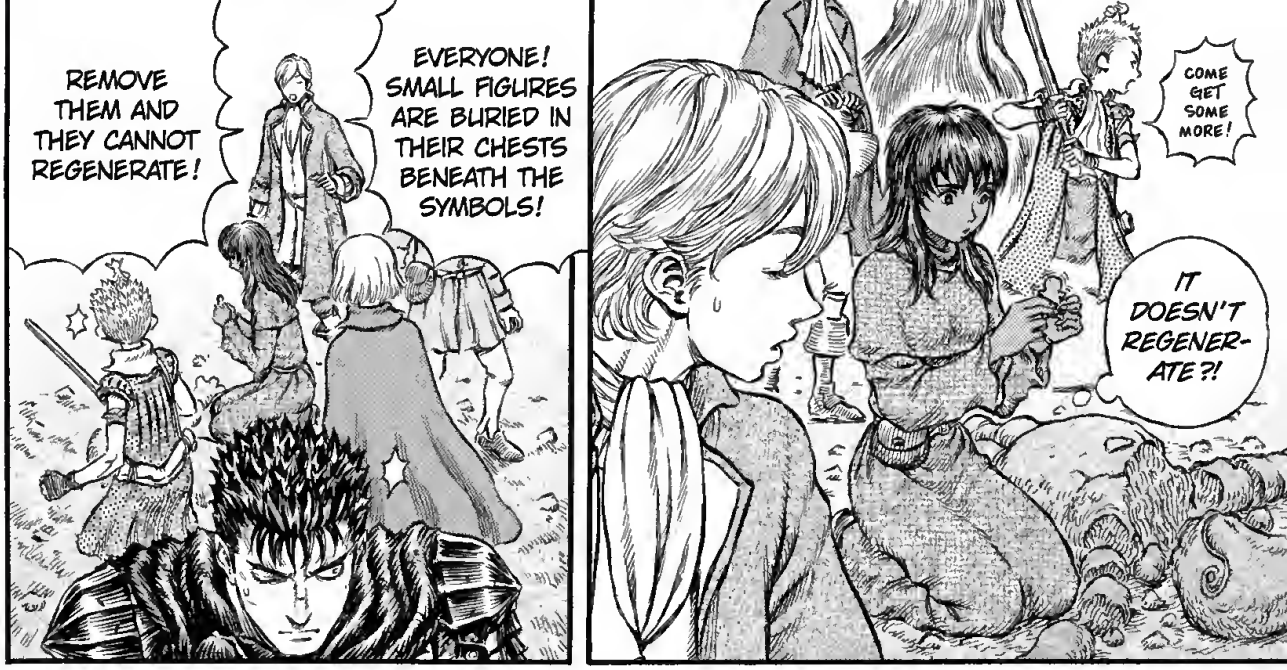
*FX. WHOM

EVENTUALLY THEY'LL EITHER RUN IN FEAR OR COLLAPSE IN EXHAUSTION.
URAHH
OHH, LOOK AT 'EM TRYIN' HARD.
IT'S USELESS. THE GOLEMS WILL CONTINUE TO REGENERATE EACH TIME THEY'RE BROKEN.

IS THERE SOME SECRET ABOUT THOSE TWO AFTER ALL ?!
NORMAL HUMANS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENTER HERE.
BUT HOW DID THEY PASS THROUGH THE BARRIER ?

OR IS THIS TOO AN EFFECT OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE HAWK...?
HUUUGE.
HEY, HEY! THAT GUY'S SWORD IS AMAZIN'!
WOW!
.....
*FX. ZHOOM
THAT IT IS!
*WOK
EEEEK!
FORGET SWORDS! IT'S EASIER TO SMASH 'EM WITH STICKS!
*BOK
BUT STILL...

BRING IT!
...SOMEHOW THEY SEEM ACCUSTOMED TO THIS?
THERE! AHH... SO CLOSE!
OH...
THAT THEY DO.
THEIR DUMB FACES MAKE 'EM LESS FRIGHT-ENIN'.
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THEY'RE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THE USUAL SPIRITS!
*THUD
*FX BENG
NO OOO!
WHAT'S THAT?!
*TWITCH
*TWITCH

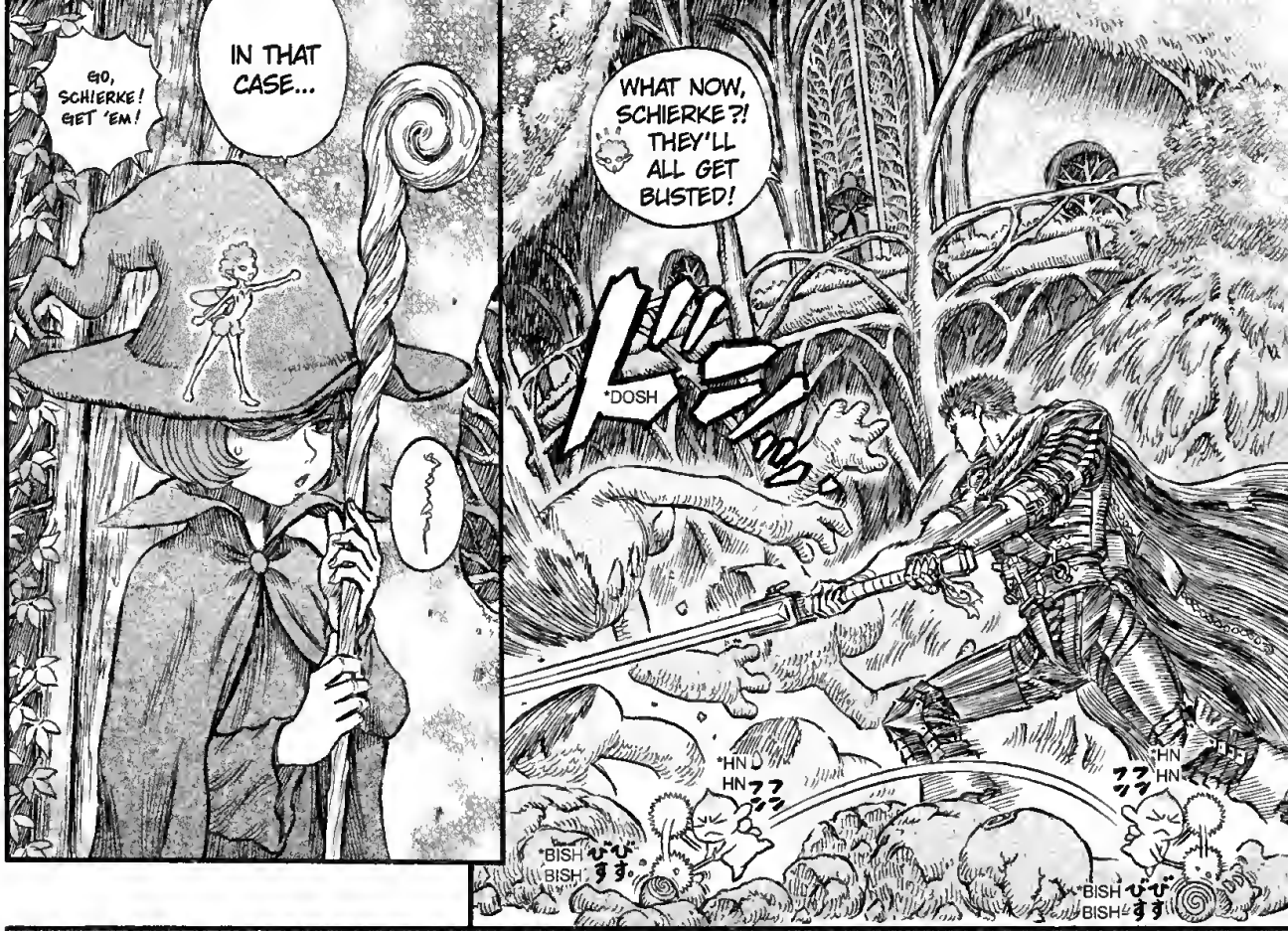

REMOVE THEM AND THEY CANNOT REGENERATE!
EVERYONE! SMALL FIGURES ARE BURIED IN THEIR CHESTS BENEATH THE SYMBOLS!
COME GET SOME MORE!
IT DOESN'T REGENER-ATE?!

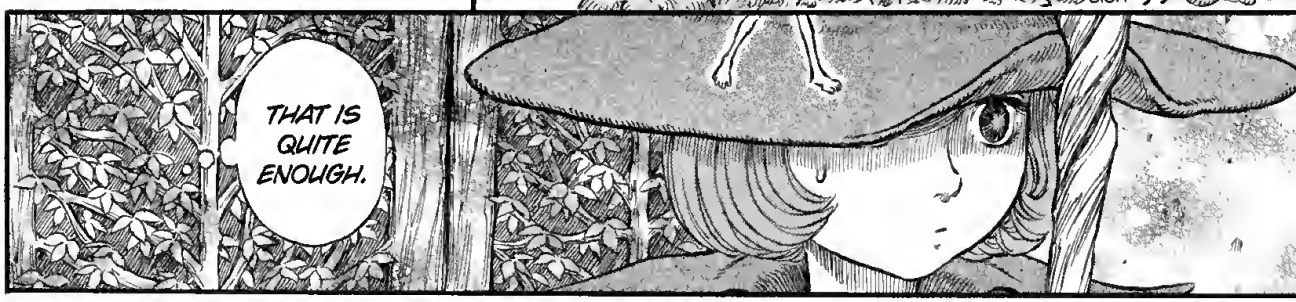
NOW THAT I KNOW THAT...
YOU DON'T SAY.
OOPS, THE GAME'S UP.
*WHOM

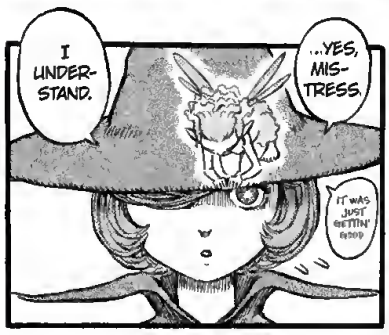
*FX: GASH

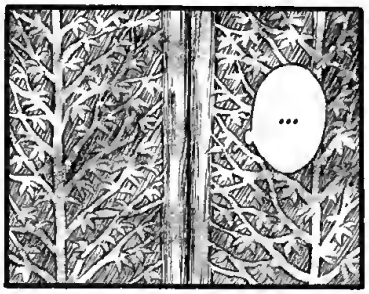
*FX: HM

*FX: WHOP


GO, SCHIERKE! GET 'EM!
IN THAT CASE...
WHAT NOW, SCHIERKE?! THEY'LL ALL GET BUSTED!
*DOSH
*HN HN
*BISH BISH
*BISH BISH


THAT IS QUITE ENOUGH.


I UNDER-STAND.
...YES, MIS-TRESS.
IT WAS JUST GETTIN' GOOD

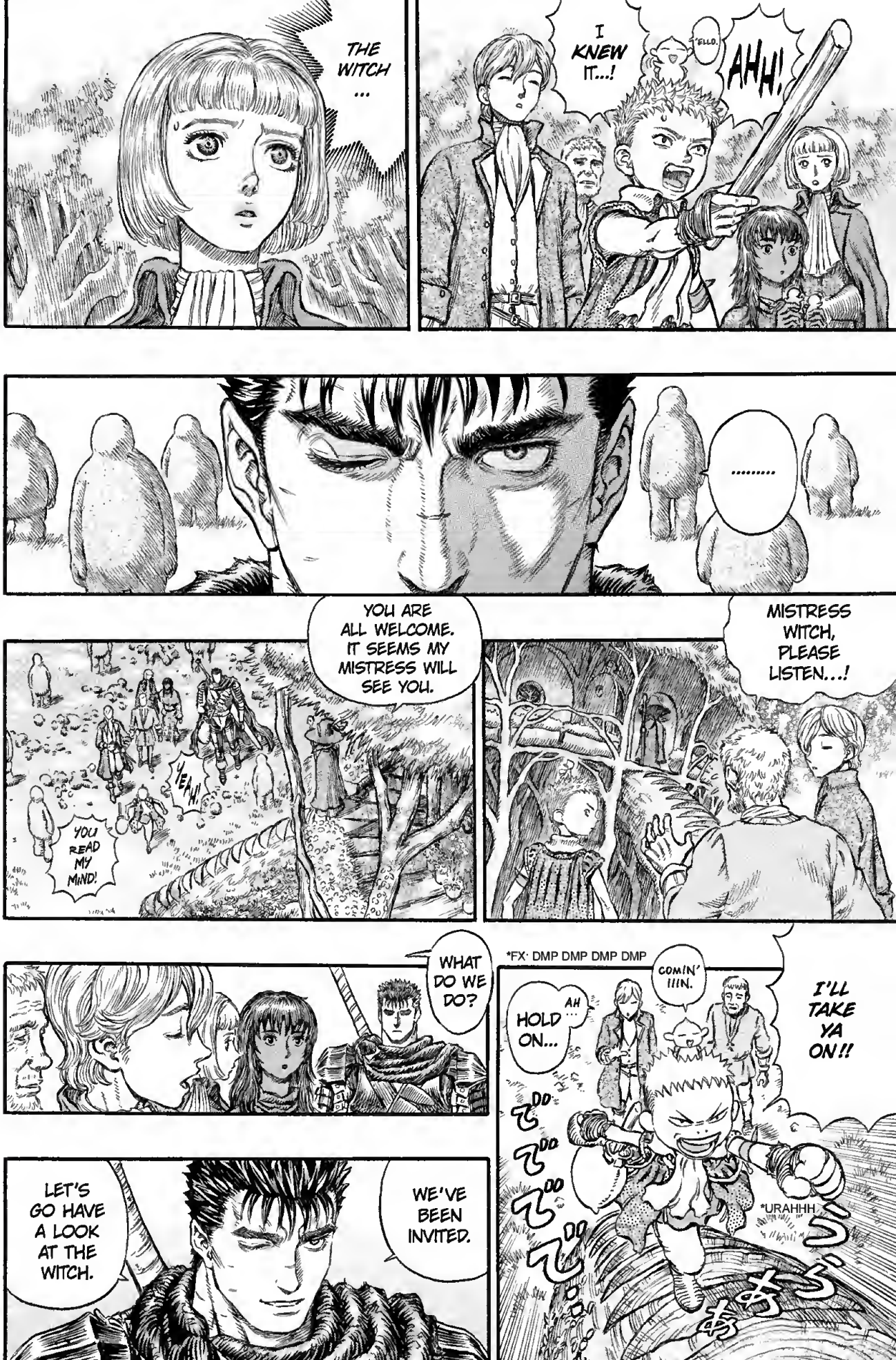

...

BUT...
MIS-TRESS.

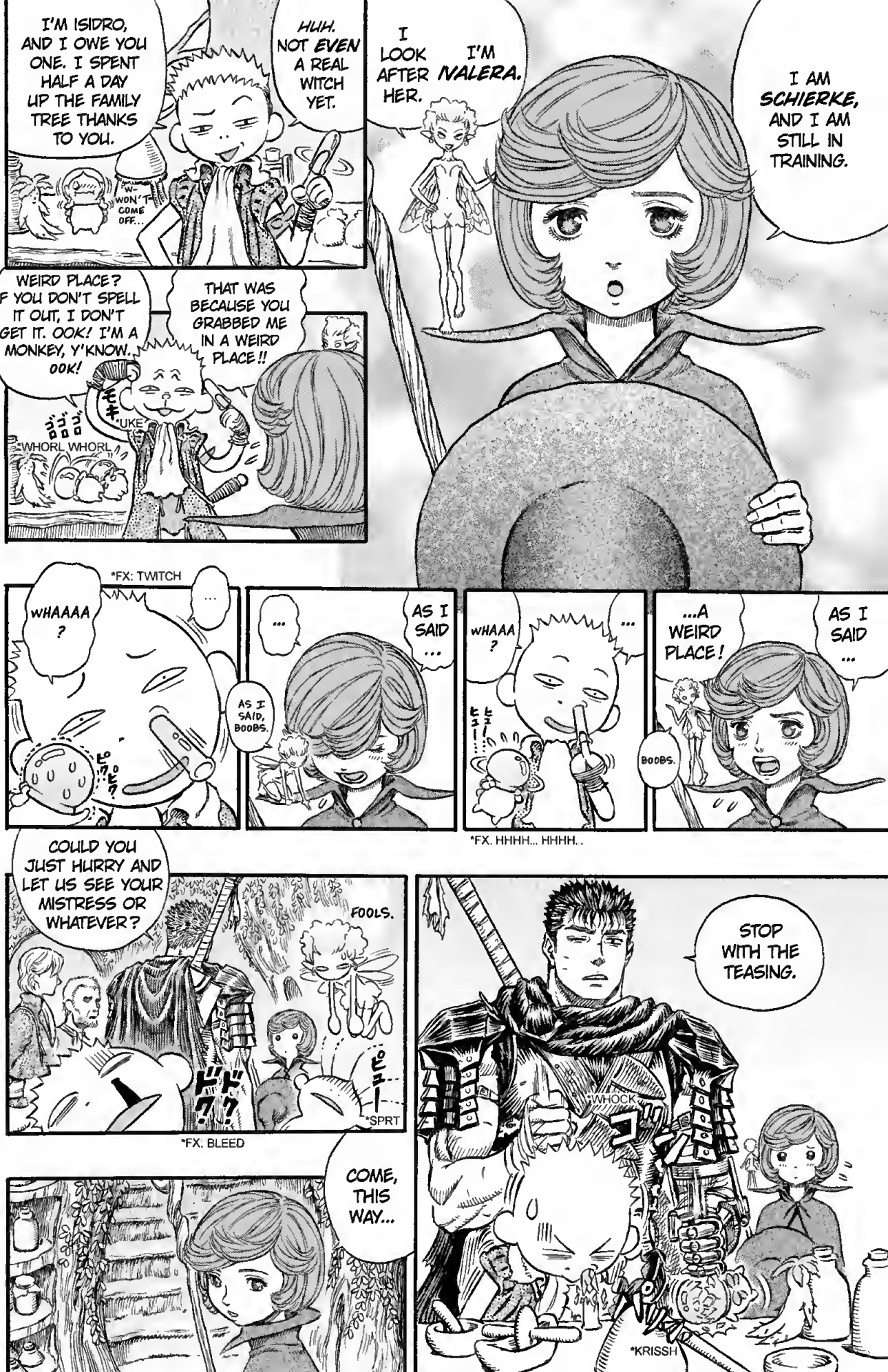
*FX: HALT

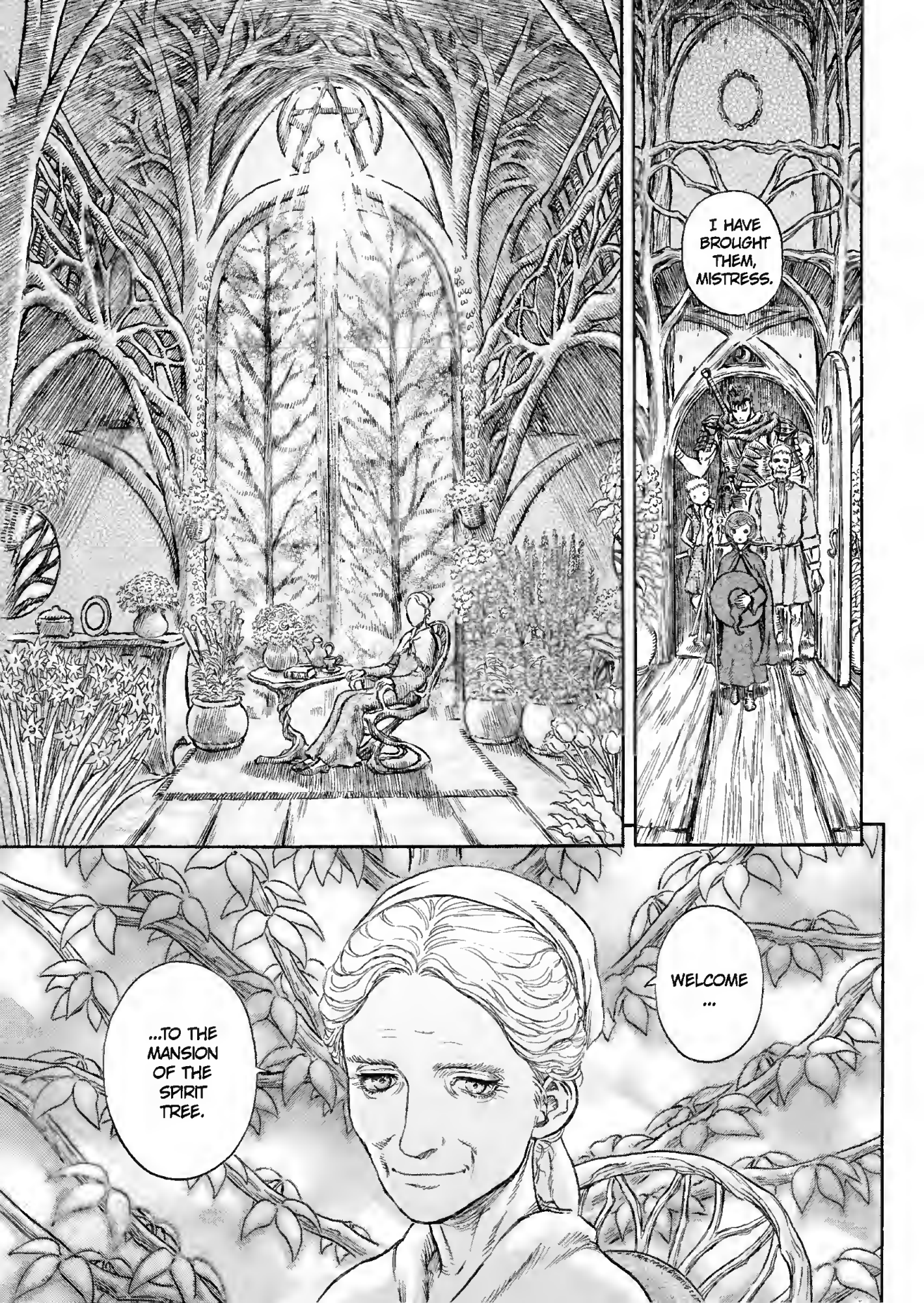
ピタリ。
HN?

...
...
...
THEY JUST UP AND STOPPED.
WH-WHAT'S HAP-PENED?
!
ドゥ
*GREEE
.....


THE WITCH ...
I KNEW IT...!
"ELLO.
AHH!
.....
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME. IT SEEMS MY MISTRESS WILL SEE YOU.
YEAH!
YOU READ MY MIND!
MISTRESS WITCH, PLEASE LISTEN...!
WHAT DO WE DO?
*FX: DMP DMP DMP DMP
COMIN' IIIN.
HOLD ON...
AH ...
I'LL TAKE YA ON!!
*URAHHH
LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK AT THE WITCH.
WE'VE BEEN INVITED.

WHAT'S ALL THIS NEAT STUFF ?!
WOOO!
THIS TAKES ME BACK.
FEELS MORE LIKE A NEST THAN A HOUSE. I FEEL LIKE I'M A SQUIRREL OR SOMETHIN'.
AND IT'S FILLED WITH TONS OF WEIRD STUFF.
DO NOT GO TOUCHING THINGS ON THE DESK.
YOU THERE!
BRAT.
AIN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE WITCH?
LOTSA MAGIC USERS LIVED WHERE I CAME FROM. I HUNG OUT WITH 'EM A LOT.
IT DOES ?
YOU SWINDLING SPRITE!
*VMMM
*GSHANNG
AH, THE MEMORIES ...


I'M ISIDRO, AND I OWE YOU ONE. I SPENT HALF A DAY UP THE FAMILY TREE THANKS TO YOU.
HUH. NOT EVEN A REAL WITCH YET.
W-WON'T COME OFF..
I LOOK AFTER HER.
I'M NALERA.
I AM SCHIERKE, AND I AM STILL IN TRAINING.
WEIRD PLACE? IF YOU DON'T SPELL IT OUT, I DON'T GET IT. OOK! I'M A MONKEY, Y'KNOW. OOK!
THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU GRABBED ME IN A WEIRD PLACE!!
モキ
UKE
ゴゴゴゴ
WHORL WHORL
*FX: TWITCH
WHAAAA?
...
AS I SAID, BOOBS.
ピク?ピク?
AS I SAID...
WHAAA?
ヒョー!
...A WEIRD PLACE!
BOOBS.
*FX. HHHH... HHHH..
COULD YOU JUST HURRY AND LET US SEE YOUR MISTRESS OR WHATEVER?
FOOLS.
ドド
ピュー
*SPRT
*FX. BLEED
COME, THIS WAY...
STOP WITH THE TEASING.
*WHOCK
*KRISSH


I HAVE BROUGHT THEM, MISTRESS.
WELCOME ...
...TO THE MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE.

...A WITCH?
SHE IS...
I AM FLORA, THE MISTRESS OF THIS MANSION.
SHE IS MERELY CONCERNED FOR MY SAFETY...
PLEASE FORGIVE MY APPRENTICE FOR BEING IMPOLITE.
...SURELY THE ONE FROM...
OHH... YOU ARE...
HOHO... THANK YOU. I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
SHE'S A WITCH? I THOUGHT FOR SURE WITCHES HAD POINTED NOSES AND LOOKED LIKE SOME WRINKLED MONSTER!
I-INSOLENCE!
I REMEMBER!
MY MOTHER WAS SAVED FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH BY THE MEDICINE I RECEIVED FROM YOU THAT DAY FIFTY YEARS AGO! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. YOU'RE JUST AS YOU WERE THEN!
IN A WAY SHE IS A MONSTER
YOU BE SILENT, MONKEY!
LADY FARNESE?
...YOU NEEDN'T BE SO FRIGHTENED.
YOUNG LADY...
YOU WERE THAT BOY.
HOW NOSTALGIC.
I TOO REMEMBER.

HOW'D SHE...?!
MY FOLK WERE NOT AMONG THOSE WHOSE LIVES YOU TOOK.
EVEN IF THEY WERE, THE FAULT WOULD COLLECTIVELY LIE UPON THE SERVANTS OF YOUR DEITY.
I DO NOT SEEK RETRIBUTION FROM YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL.
!
THE BRANDED PAIR.
AND YOU...
HOW DID YOU...?

IT PLEASES ME TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

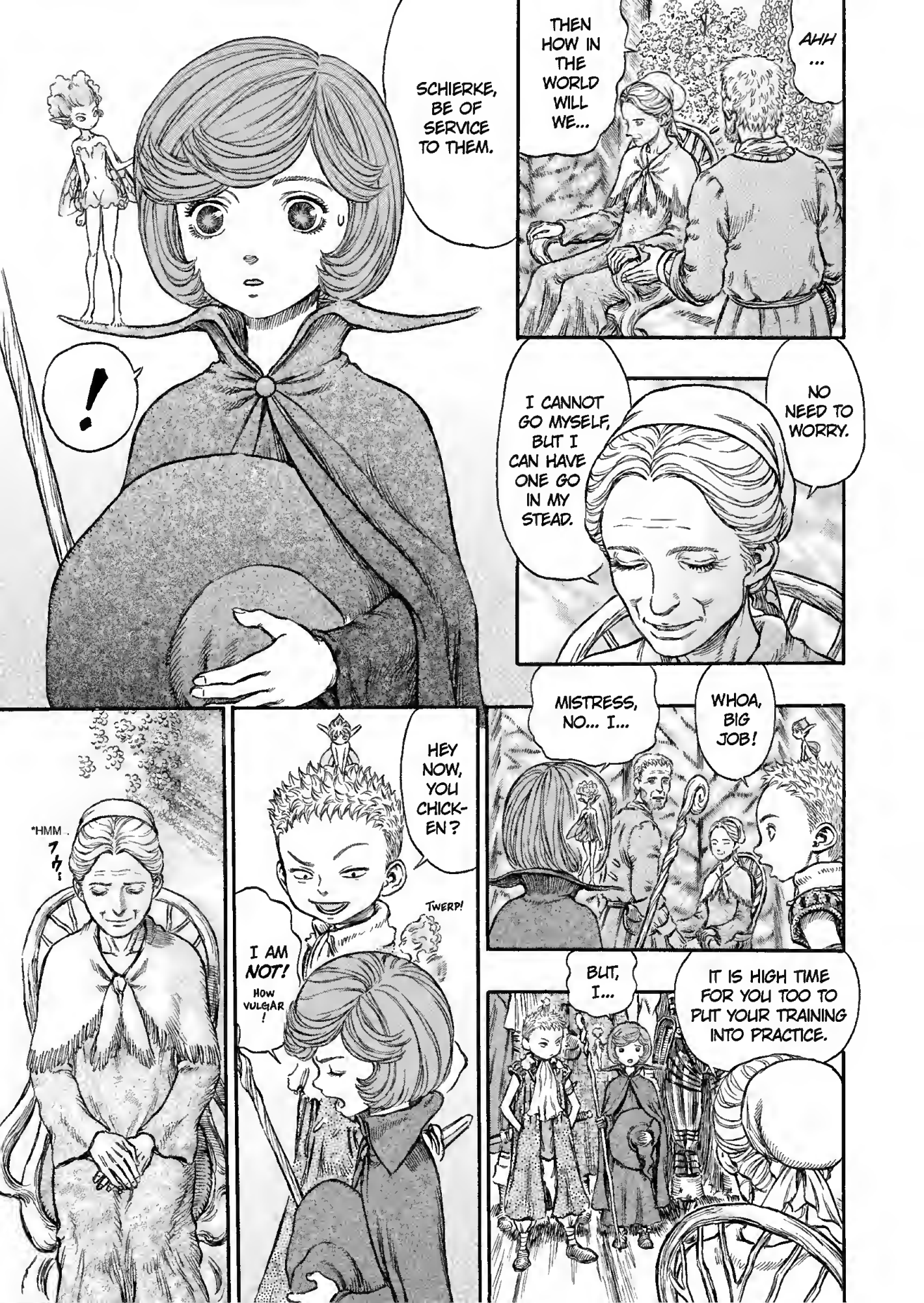
THE ASTRAL WORLD

幽界（かくりよ）

I HAVE AWAITED YOU.
YES. THEY OF THE BRAND, GUIDED BY TINY WINGS.
COULD SHE BE AN APOSTLE?!
SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE BRAND...?!
...THIS FEELING...
NO... BUT...
THEY OF THE BRAND ...?
.....
IT ACHES FAINTLY...
...BUT... SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT...

WHO THE HELL...?
OLD WOMAN.
...IS OF TROLLS.
YOUR STORY...
Y-YES...
ONE MOMENT.
HIS STORY IS OF THE HIGHER PRIORITY.
...MUCH LESS ATTACK THEIR HOMES...
RARELY SHOULD THEY EVEN BE SEEN BY HUMANS...
TROLLS ORIGINATE FROM THE ASTRAL WORLD.
I AM ANXIOUS ABOUT THEM, TOO.
...I CANNOT ASSIST YOU.
UNFORTU-NATELY...
.....
IN THAT CASE...
WELL ...
H-HOW COME?

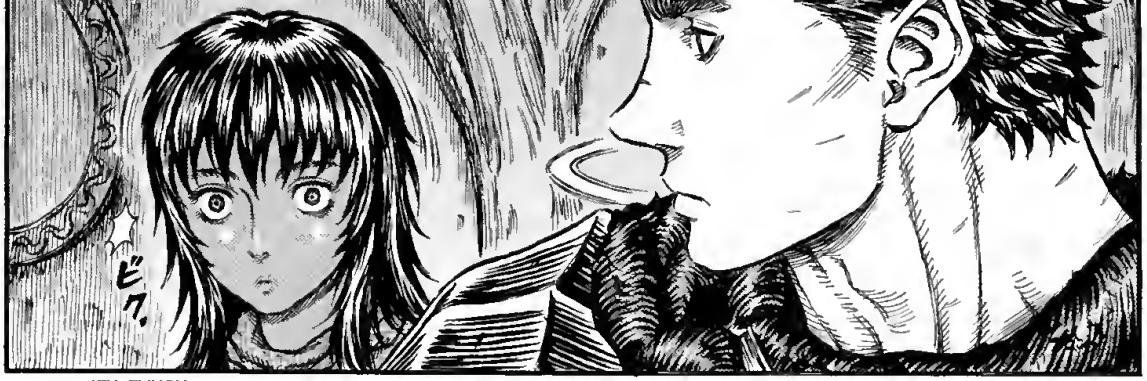
THIS OLD BODY HAS...
...NEITHER THE STRENGTH ...
...NOR THE TIME LEFT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.
.....
WH-WHAT?
IF LOOKS COULD KILL...
?
YOU'RE A BIT INSEN-SITIVE!
*FX GLARE
THE WAY YOU TALK, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA DIE.
AS THE BOY SAYS...
...MY TIME OF DEATH DRAWS NEAR.
NOW I SIMPLY WAIT QUIETLY FOR IT...
!


SCHIERKE, BE OF SERVICE TO THEM.
!
THEN HOW IN THE WORLD WILL WE...
AHH ...
I CANNOT GO MYSELF, BUT I CAN HAVE ONE GO IN MY STEAD.
NO NEED TO WORRY.
MISTRESS, NO... I...
WHOA, BIG JOB!
BUT, I...
IT IS HIGH TIME FOR YOU TOO TO PUT YOUR TRAINING INTO PRACTICE.
HEY NOW, YOU CHICK-EN?
TWERP!
I AM NOT!
HOW VULGAR!
*HMM..
フム

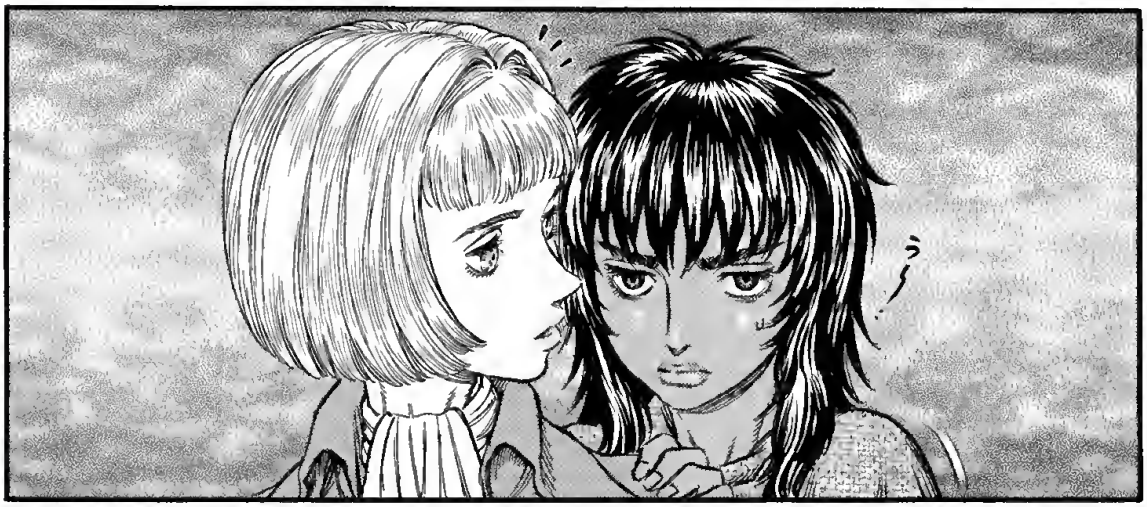
COULD I ASK ALL OF YOU, PLEASE, TO ASSIST MY DISCIPLE?
!
WHOA, WHOA.
I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE STUDENT, BUT WE'VE GOT NO OBLIGATION TO GO THAT FAR. SORRY, BUT WE'VE GOTTA STICK TO OUR JOURNEY.
NATURALLY, I DO NOT ASK YOUR HELP FOR FREE.
I THINK I MIGHT BE OF SOME USE TO YOU AS WELL.
UPON YOUR RETURN, I SHALL PRODUCE TALISMANS TO PROTECT YOU ON THE REST OF YOUR JOURNEY.

WHAT'S A TALISMAN?
IT IS A CHARM.
CHARMS?
AIN'T THAT ALL IN YOUR HEAD?
HOW RUDE!
TALISMANS MADE BY THE MAGI ARE NOT THE SAME AS SUPERSTITIONS!
EVEN AMONG THEM, MY MISTRESS' ARE SPECIAL!
IGNORAMUSES JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IGNORE-GRETFULLY.
LAY OFF ALREADY.
THE CURSED POWER OF THAT BRAND DEFIES IMAGINATION. ERASING IT IS BEYOND MY POWER.
...SHOULD REDUCE THE EVIL SPIRITS IT CAN DRAW... OR AT LEAST PROTECT AGAINST YOU YOURSELVES BECOMING POSSESSED.
HOWEVER, WEAKENING THE INTENSITY OF ITS POWER...
Y-YOU CAN...
...DO THAT?!
HOWEVER, DUE TO THE IMMENSE POWER OF THE CURSE, THERE IS A TIME LIMIT TO THE POTENCY OF THE TALISMAN.
EVEN SO, IT SHOULD HOLD FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR JOURNEY.

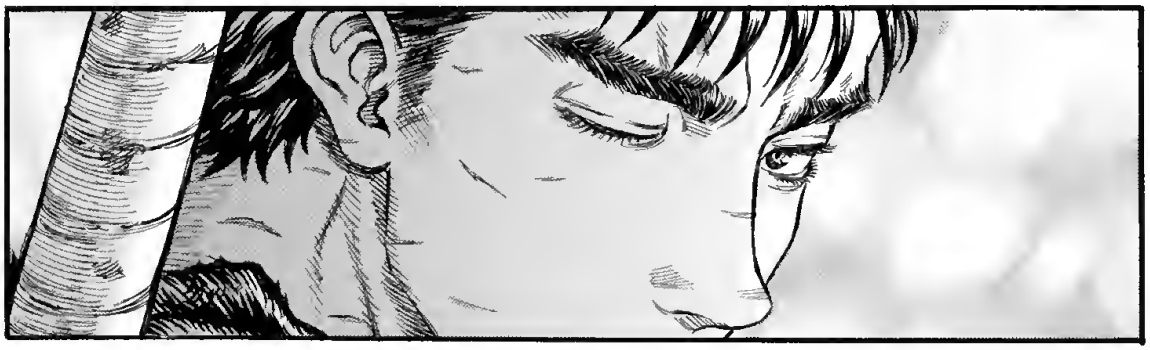
IT'LL PROTECT ...
... AGAINST THAT.
I KNEW WHY.
SO THAT'S WHY.
YEAH.
IS THAT FOOLISH OR DARING ...?
HAVE YOU BEEN ON THIS JOURNEY WITH THEM NOT EVEN KNOWING THAT?
SO THAT'S WHAT THAT BRAND DOES.
NO WONDER THEY SWARM EVERY NIGHT...
OH, OKAY.

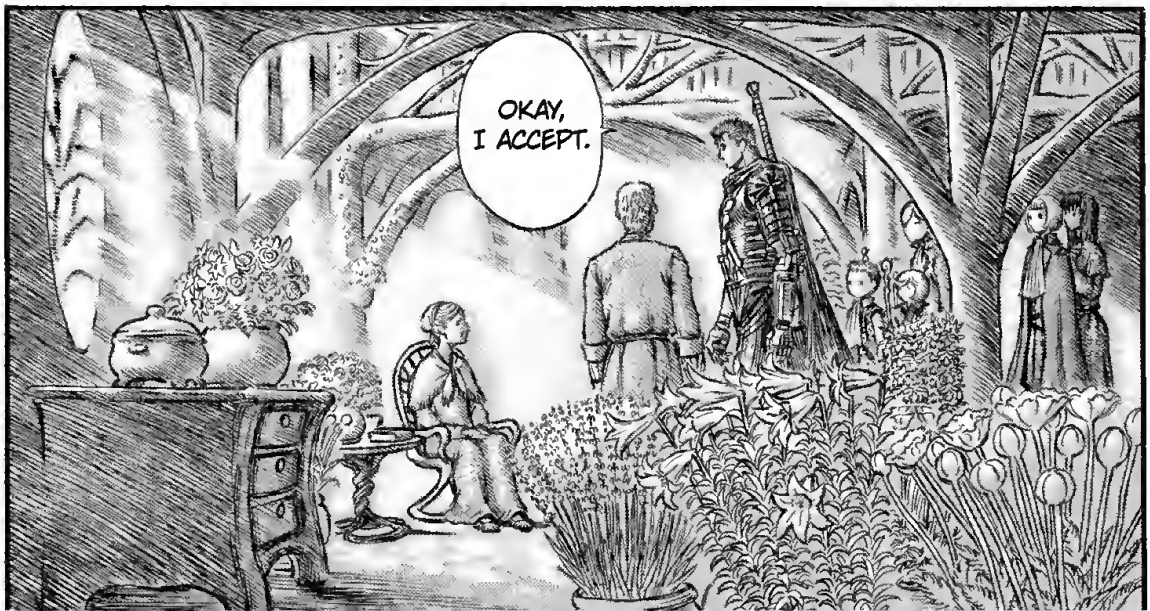


*FX: FLINCH



*FX: OOOO



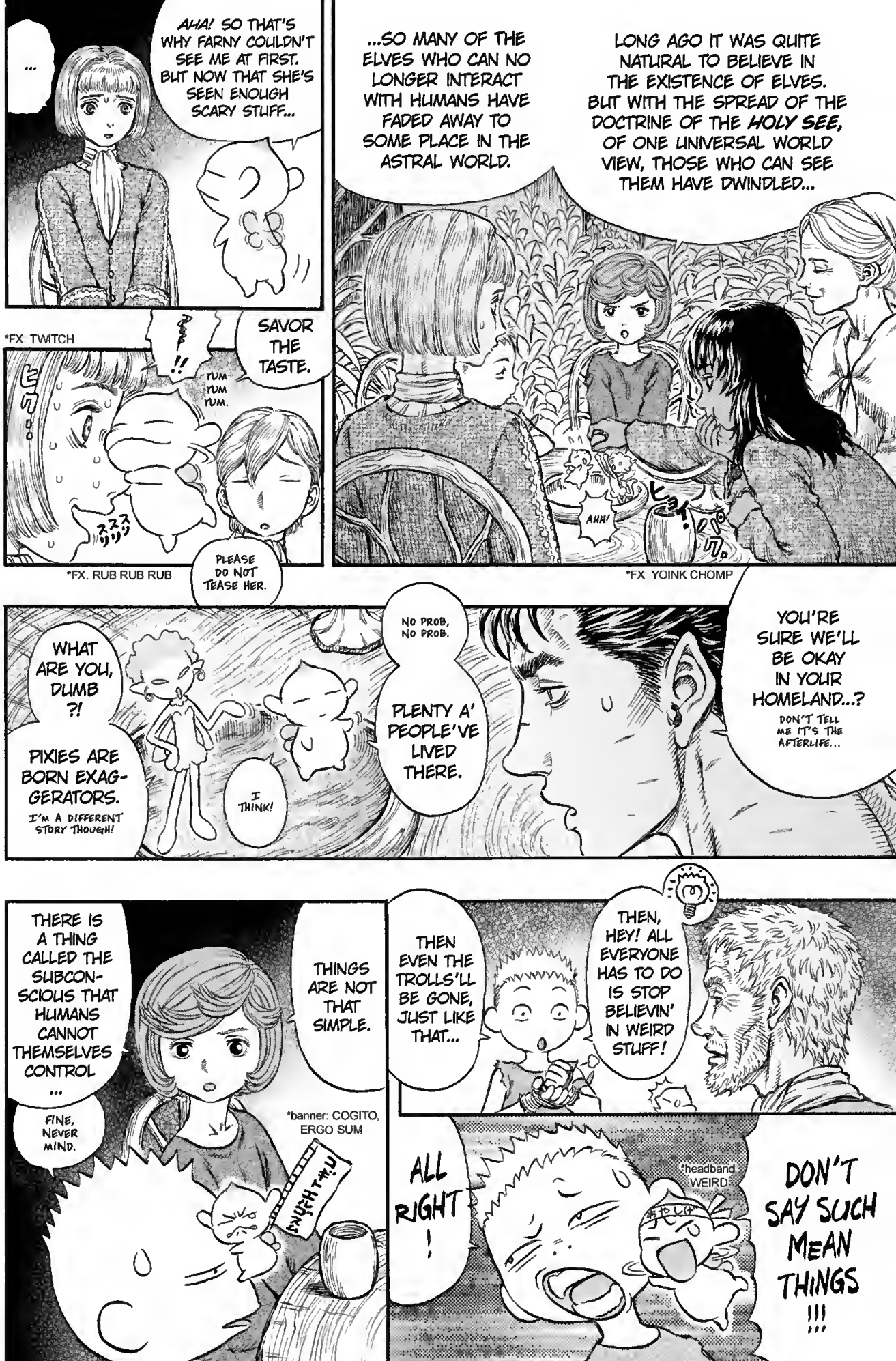


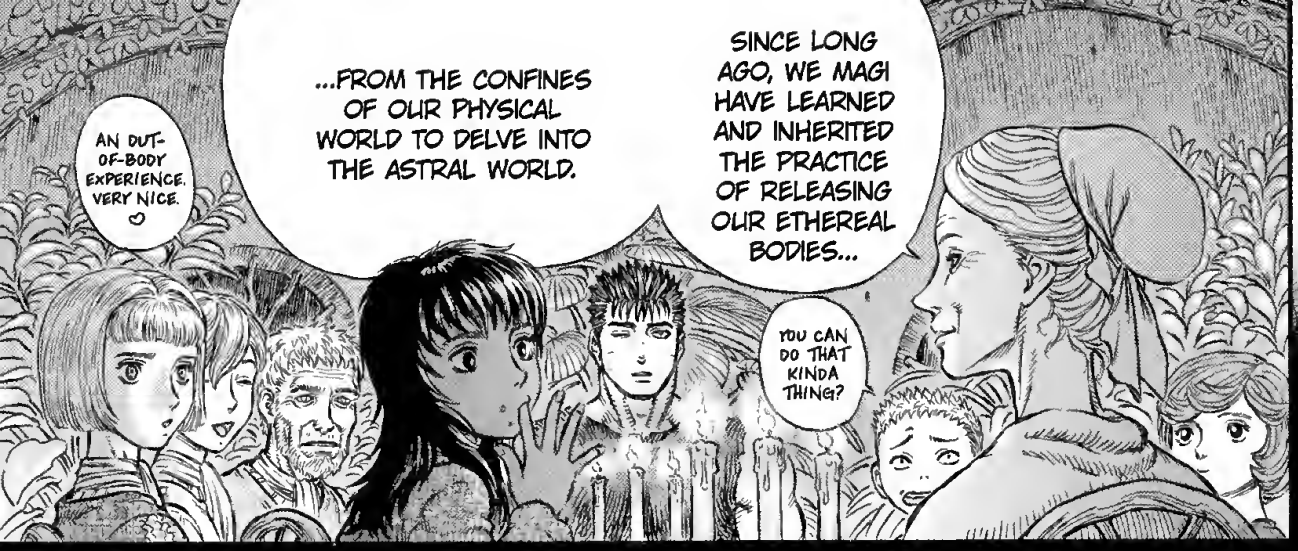
NEGOTIATION COMPLETE.
ニコ
*SMILE
M-MISTRESS ...!
EXTEND GREETINGS TO EVERYONE, SCHIERKE.
WHY BOTHER ...?
BRUTE SLAYING, EH?
THIS IS GETTIN' INTERESTIN'.
OH, BOTHER.
H-HEY...
...
THANK YOU SO MUCH...!
.....
*FX: WHAP WHAP
THERE'S SOMETHIN' I OWE THOSE THINGS! I'M TALKIN' REVENGE!
YEAHHH, LEAVE IT TO US!
IT...
IT IS NICE TO MEET ALL OF YOU...
THAT'S BAITIN'.
WELL, TRY NOT TO GET IN THE WAY, LITTLE WITCH APPRENTICE.
*HMPH
SOMEONE HOLDS A GRUDGE.
*HEH

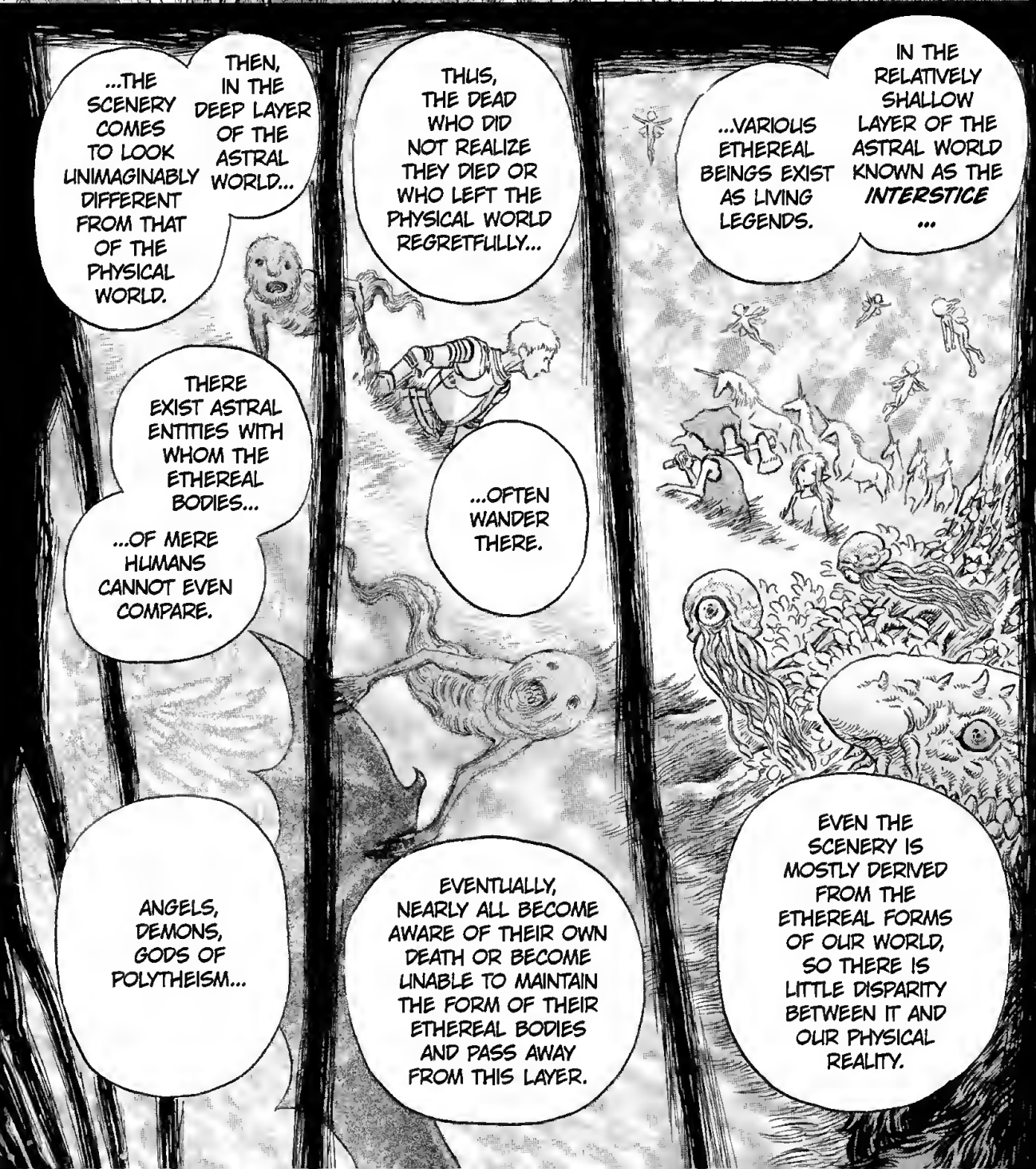
NO NEED TO WORRY.
WAIT A MINUTE. IF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BRAND, YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT WE...
NOW PREPARE THE EVENING MEAL, SCHIERKE.
YES, MISTRESS ...
AND THE MEDICATED BATH.
OH, A BATH. ♡
YOU MUST ALL BE TIRED FROM YOUR LONG JOURNEY. PLEASE REST EASY FOR THE NIGHT, THEN DEPART TOMORROW.
SCHIERKE TOO HAS VARIOUS PREPARATIONS TO MAKE.
THIS MANSION IS PROTECTED BY TALISMANS AS WELL.
I GUARANTEE SAFETY FOR THE NIGHT.
YOU MAY REST EASY.

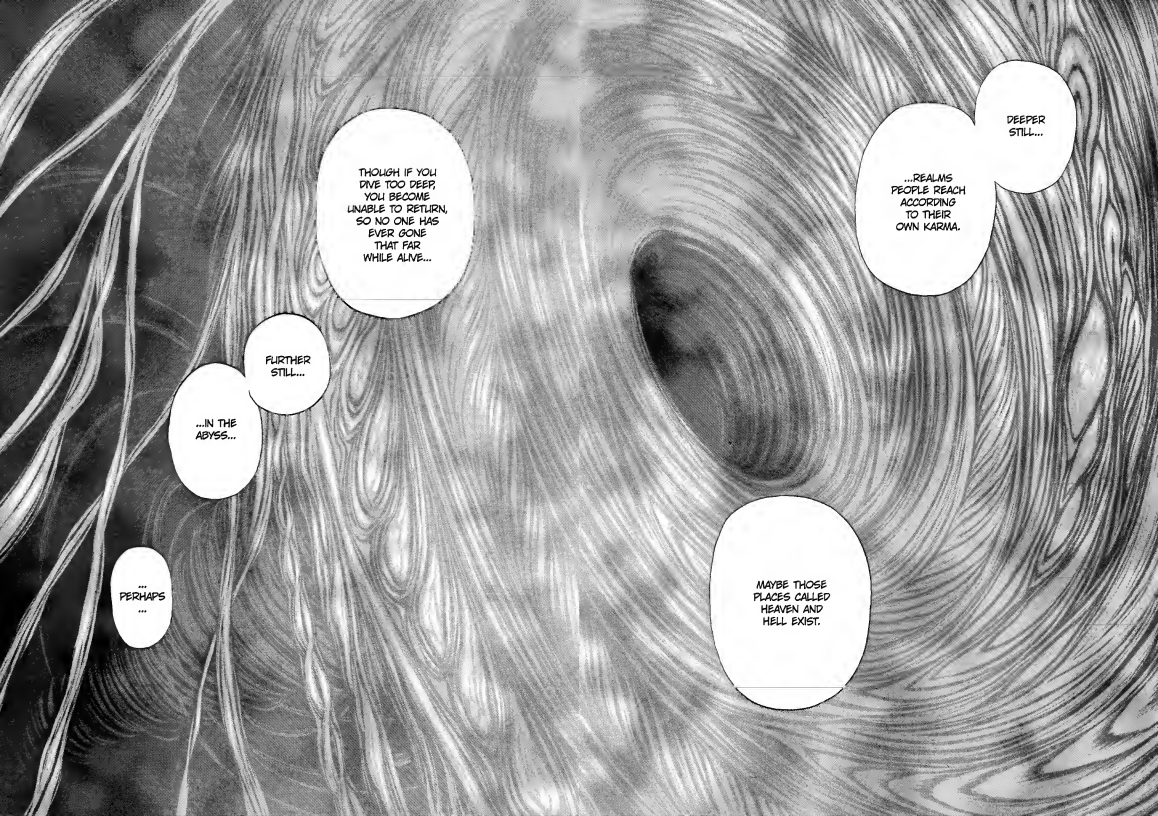
S'GOOD, THOUGH.
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HAD A MEAL OF NOTHIN' BUT NUTS 'N' LEAVES.
IT IS NUTRITIOUS.
*GOM
*GOM
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BRAND?
YOU SAID YOU WERE WAITIN' FOR US. WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
OLD LADY, BACK TO WHAT WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT...
"I WANT YOU TO LEND THEM A HAND."
"THEY OF THE BRAND WILL VISIT THIS FOREST, GUIDED BY TINY WINGS..."
...FROM A FRIEND IN THE ASTRAL WORLD.
THERE WAS AN ORACLE...
WHO THE HELL SAID--?
"LEND A HAND"...
...
...SO IT'S RE-VERSED.
THOUGH I'M THE ONE BEING HELPED NOW...
ORACLE ...?

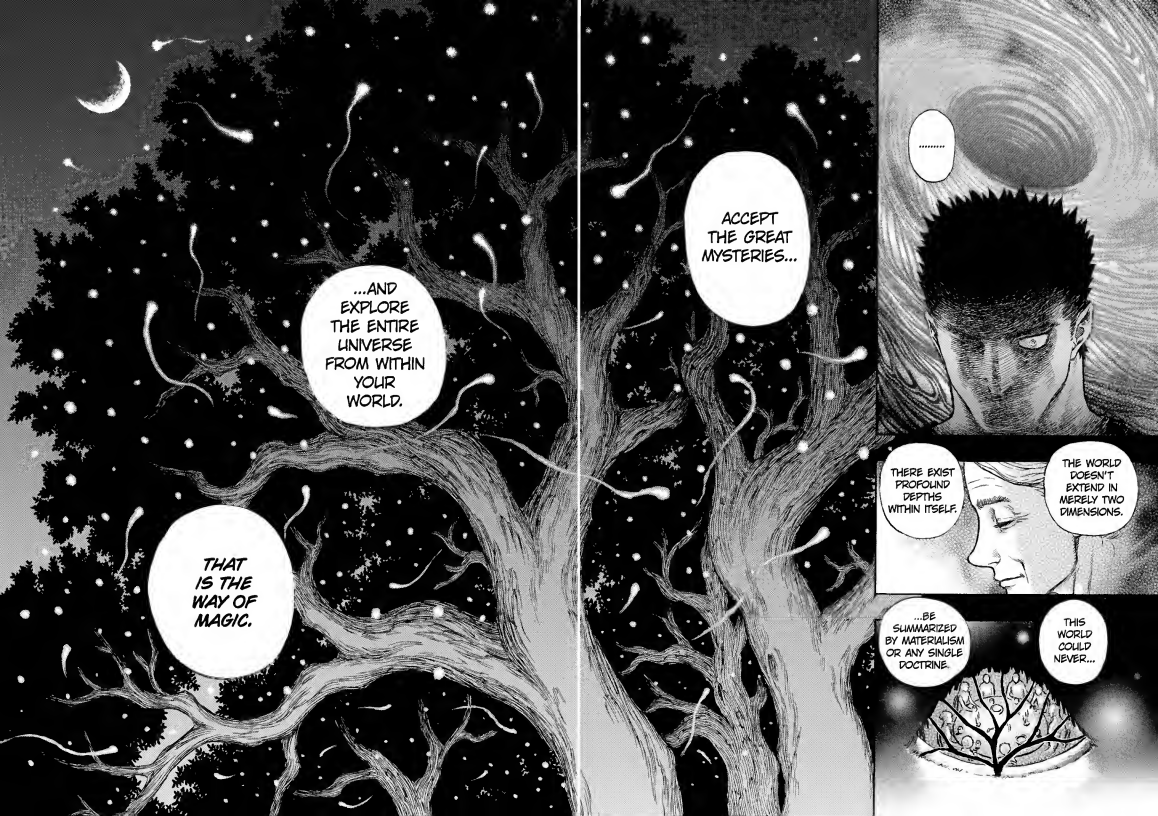
...TO KEENLY SENSE ETHEREAL BODIES UNSEEN BY THE NAKED EYE.
DUE TO THE CURSED POWER OF THE BRAND, YOU ALL HAVE BEEN RENDERED ABLE...
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THE AFTER-LIFE.
HEY! WHAT'S THAT ASTRAL WORLD THING?
YOU CAN'T HAVE 'EM ALL! LAST ONE.
...IN WHICH OUR WORLD IS OVERLAPPED BY THE EXISTENCE OF TWO OTHER WORLDS.
THERE IS A TRINITY ...
ARE ETHEREAL BODIES GHOSTS?
THE OTHER IS THE SOUL OF THE ORIGIN OF ALL EXISTENCE, THE WORLD OF THE IDEA.
ONE IS KNOWN COMMONLY AS THE WORLD OF SPIRITS, THE ASTRAL WORLD.
AMATEURS CANNOT TELL ONE FROM THE OTHER!
...AND TOUCH IT AS IF IT WERE A REAL THING.
IF AN ETHEREAL BODY IS SENSED STRONGLY ENOUGH, YOUR PHYSICAL BODY WILL SEE IT...
MIGHT THAT MEAN ...?
THAT'S A LITTLE COMPLICATED, BUT IT COMES DOWN TO GHOSTS, RIGHT? AIN'T THEY A LITTLE TOO LIVELY? THEY'RE ALL STICKY LIKE SNOT.
MAKES ME SICK.
THOSE ARE THE ETHEREAL BODIES THAT YOUR ETHEREAL BODY'S PERCEIVING.
HOW VULGAR!
MANY PEOPLE OVER THE AGES HAVE RECOGNIZED THIS FACT AS REALITY, AND BECAUSE THEIR WORLD VIEW CONTINUES TO BE PASSED DOWN, WE ARE ABLE TO PERCEIVE, SEE, AND TOUCH THESE LITTLE ONES.
?
ELVES AND TROLLS ARE INHABITANTS OF THAT SAME ASTRAL WORLD.


...
AHA! SO THAT'S WHY FARNY COULDN'T SEE ME AT FIRST. BUT NOW THAT SHE'S SEEN ENOUGH SCARY STUFF...
...SO MANY OF THE ELVES WHO CAN NO LONGER INTERACT WITH HUMANS HAVE FADED AWAY TO SOME PLACE IN THE ASTRAL WORLD.
LONG AGO IT WAS QUITE NATURAL TO BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF ELVES. BUT WITH THE SPREAD OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SEE, OF ONE UNIVERSAL WORLD VIEW, THOSE WHO CAN SEE THEM HAVE DWINDLED...
*FX TWITCH
?!
!!
YUM YUM YUM.
SAVOR THE TASTE.
ヒョ!
スススリリリ
*FX. RUB RUB RUB
PLEASE DO NOT TEASE HER.
AHH!
ヒョイ!
パクッ。
*FX YOINK CHOMP
WHAT ARE YOU, DUMB ?!
PIXIES ARE BORN EXAG-GERATORS.
I'M A DIFFERENT STORY THOUGH!
I THINK!
NO PROB, NO PROB.
PLENTY A' PEOPLE'VE LIVED THERE.
YOU'RE SURE WE'LL BE OKAY IN YOUR HOMELAND...?
DON'T TELL ME IT'S THE AFTERLIFE...
THERE IS A THING CALLED THE SUBCON-SCIOUS THAT HUMANS CANNOT THEMSELVES CONTROL ...
FINE, NEVER MIND.
THINGS ARE NOT THAT SIMPLE.
*banner: COGITO, ERGO SUM
THEN EVEN THE TROLLS'LL BE GONE, JUST LIKE THAT...
THEN, HEY! ALL EVERYONE HAS TO DO IS STOP BELIEVIN' IN WEIRD STUFF!
ALL RIGHT !
*headband WEIRD
DON'T SAY SUCH MEAN THINGS !!!


AN OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE. VERY NICE. ♡
...FROM THE CONFINES OF OUR PHYSICAL WORLD TO DELVE INTO THE ASTRAL WORLD.
SINCE LONG AGO, WE MAGI HAVE LEARNED AND INHERITED THE PRACTICE OF RELEASING OUR ETHEREAL BODIES...
YOU CAN DO THAT KINDA THING?


...THE SCENERY COMES TO LOOK UNIMAGINABLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
THEN, IN THE DEEP LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD...
THUS, THE DEAD WHO DID NOT REALIZE THEY DIED OR WHO LEFT THE PHYSICAL WORLD REGRETFULLY...
...VARIOUS ETHEREAL BEINGS EXIST AS LIVING LEGENDS.
IN THE RELATIVELY SHALLOW LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD KNOWN AS THE *INTERSTICE* ...
THERE EXIST ASTRAL ENTITIES WITH WHOM THE ETHEREAL BODIES...
...OF MERE HUMANS CANNOT EVEN COMPARE.
...OFTEN WANDER THERE.
ANGELS, DEMONS, GODS OF POLYTHEISM...
EVENTUALLY, NEARLY ALL BECOME AWARE OF THEIR OWN DEATH OR BECOME UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE FORM OF THEIR ETHEREAL BODIES AND PASS AWAY FROM THIS LAYER.
EVEN THE SCENERY IS MOSTLY DERIVED FROM THE ETHEREAL FORMS OF OUR WORLD, SO THERE IS LITTLE DISPARITY BETWEEN IT AND OUR PHYSICAL REALITY.


DEEPER STILL....
...REALMS PEOPLE REACH ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN KARMA.
MAYBE THOSE PLACES CALLED HEAVEN AND HELL EXIST.
THOUGH IF YOU DIVE TOO DEEP, YOU BECOME UNABLE TO RETURN, SO NO ONE HAS EVER GONE THAT FAR WHILE ALIVE...
FURTHER STILL....
...IN THE ABYSS...
... PERHAPS ...


...AND EXPLORE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE FROM WITHIN YOUR WORLD.
THAT IS THE WAY OF MAGIC.
ACCEPT THE GREAT MYSTERIES...
.....
THERE EXIST PROFOUND DEPTHS WITHIN ITSELF.
THE WORLD DOESN'T EXTEND IN MERELY TWO DIMENSIONS.
...BE SUMMARIZED BY MATERIALISM OR ANY SINGLE DOCTRINE.
THIS WORLD COULD NEVER...

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

MAGIC STONE

魔石

BERSERK

NYA HA HEE...
COME ON, HOLD STILL.
IT'S SO DAMAGED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY.
ゴシ *SHUK
ゴシ *SHUK
WH EH HH...

...DURING OUR TRAVELS.
I NEVER EVEN DREAMED I WOULD FIND COMFORT LIKE THIS...
*SIP
...IN A WITCH'S MANSION.
WHAT'S MORE...
...
*FX: OMMMM
*RRR
*FX: SHFF SHFF
NOW THEN
...
*GRAB!
*FX: GRRR
A CHILD'S PRIVILEGE !!
*SCRUB
*SCRUB
GYO BWAHH...

*BOK BOK
ボコ
*EIGH! EIGH!
えいっ!
YOU WISH TO SHOW ME SOME-THING?
WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?
.....
LET'S HANG 'IM HERE 'TIL MORNING!
DO YOU...
...KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

THAT'S...
WHAT'S WRONG ?
IS THAT ...?!
!
DOES THIS BELONG TO YOU ?
WHERE THE BLAZES DID YOU--
I GOT IT FROM A CERTAIN MAN.
YES... I KNOW IT.
ALL WHO ASPIRE TOWARD MASTERING THE WAY OF MAGIC DO.
.....
I SEE.
A KEY THAT LINKS A DEEP LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
A BEHELIT.

A FETISH FOR SUMMONING THE FIVE ANGELS.
STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
THAT'S A WITCH FOR YOU.
.....
TELL ME...

...AND SUMMON THEM.
...THE WAY TO USE THIS...
.....
.....
THEY CARVED THAT INTO YOU.
THE BRAND ...
REVENGE, THEN...

HEY...
COME BACK HERE!
THAT ISN'T LADYLIKE BEHAVIOR...!
OOOO
E...
EXCUSE US!
*GUZZLE
TO PROTECT THAT GIRL...
...YOU ARE ALL HEADED FOR ELFHELM.
CORRECT?
!
ELF-HELM...?
YOU DON'T MISS A THING.
.....
HOW IRONIC...

IT MUST BE THAT MALICE...
...THAT HAS KEPT YOU ON YOUR FEET UNTIL THIS DAY.
YOUR LIFE CANNOT BE WITHOUT HATRED...
...BUT THAT HELLFIRE...
...IS STRIVING TO INCINERATE EVEN THOSE YOU CONSIDER IRREPLACEABLE.
AND SO IT BECOMES SHACKLES...
...WHICH MAKE YOUR SWORD HEAVY AND BLUNT.

...AND DANGEROUS EXPEDITION.
JUST LIKE TREADING ACROSS THIN ICE...
...IT IS A DIFFICULT...
...I CAN'T MEET YOUR EXPECTA-TIONS.
UNFORTU-NATELY...

...THAT CAN BE USED IF ONLY YOU FIND THE MEANS, BUT IT IS NOT.
YOU THINK THIS IS SOME-THING ...

NOT THAT.
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE TELLIN' ME?

THE OBJECT ITSELF IS AS NOTHING MORE THAN A STONE, BUT THE FATE ASSOCIATED WITH IT RESTS IN THE HANDS OF ITS MASTER WHO SENT IT.
A BEHELIT IS A HIGHLY SPIRITUAL OBJECT THAT GOVERNS EVEN HUMAN FATE... PERHAPS AN EVEN GREATER EXISTENCE SENT IT TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
THAT'S THE WAY IT IS.
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, IT WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM IT BELONGS.
...THAT THE OWNER CRAVES THEIR POWER.
AND IT IS CERTAIN...
...TO BE AT THE VERY MOMENT ...
IF IT IS NOT YOURS THEN, IN SPITE OF YOUR WILL, IT SHALL AT SOME POINT LEAVE YOUR HAND.
IF THIS BEHELIT INDEED BELONGS TO YOU, EVEN IF YOU WERE TO DISCARD IT, WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT SHALL FIND YOU.

I CAN'T STAND THAT.
GOD ONLY KNOWS, HUH?
IN ANY CASE, IT IS BEYOND HUMAN WILL.
...WISH THAT IT LEAVE YOUR HAND.
EVEN IF, TO YOU, THIS IS A BEACON FOR REVENGE...
...I FERVENTLY...
DON'T GO CARRYIN' MY BETCHI AROUND WITHOUT ASKIN'!
*SNATCH
...TO DO ANYTHING WITH IT JUST YET.
WELL... ...I DON'T PLAN...
YOU KNEW I'D BE PASSING THROUGH, BUT WHO--
OH, YEAH.
AHH!
STOP, STOP!

...AND THAT AS REINCARNATIONS...
...THEY ARE THE EXECUTORS OF THE WILL OF SOMETHING LURKING IN THE DISTANT ABYSS OF THE ASTRAL WORLD.
PERHAPS IN THAT DOMAIN, IT IS UNATTAINABLE...
...FOR ONE TO ARRIVE AS A PERSON, CLAD IN THE ETHEREAL BODY CALLED EGO.

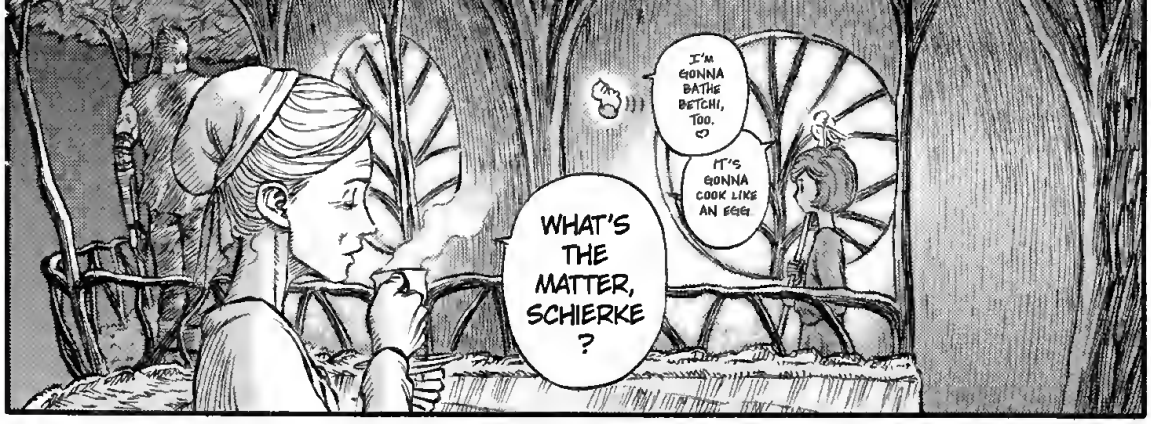
I MEAN, I'M THE ONE TAKIN' CARE OF HIM.
RIGHT.
IT'S YOURS ?
"HMM HM" ワス ワス

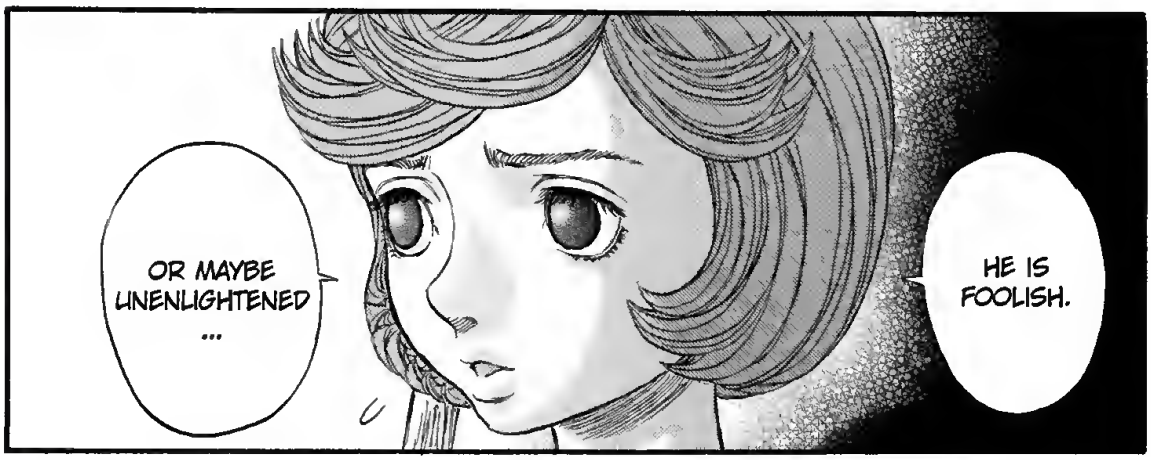
ONE MORE THING.
I BETCHA DON'T KNOW PUCK'S FAVORITE FOOD IT'S CARROT.

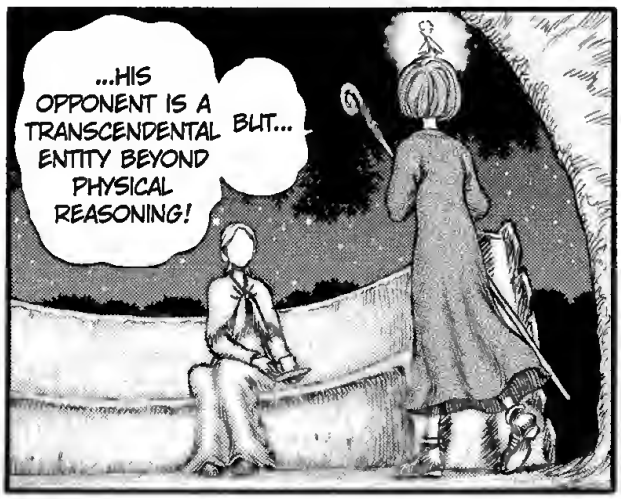
THAT IS ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES FOR THOSE OF US WHO EXPLORE THE ASTRAL WORLD.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THEY WERE ONCE HUMAN...
THE GODHAND.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY?

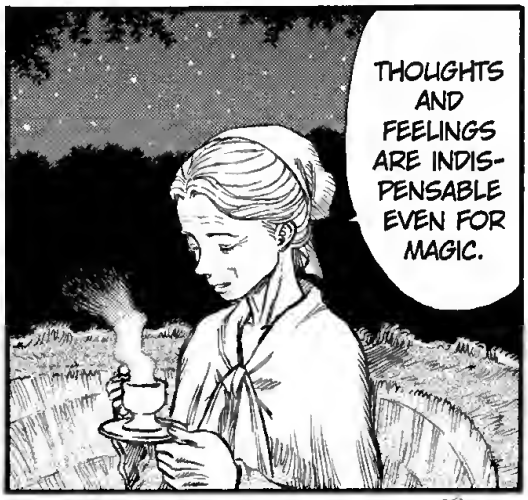
I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE OF USE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'M JUST COUNTIN' ON THE TALISMANS. I'LL GO TAKE A BATH TOO.
WHAT A CLOUD OF WORDS.
MAN OH MAN...
WELL...
...DO THE BEST YOU CAN TOMOR-ROW.
.....
...THAT THOSE BRANDED WITH THAT BECOME AN OFFERING TO THOSE OF THE DARKNESS UNTIL THEIR DYING BREATH...
IT WAS TAUGHT TO ME BY MY MIS-TRESS...
THAT... IS THE BRAND OF SACRIFICE.
.....

ONE DAY...
...I'LL HAVE TO HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.
...INTEND TO DEFY...
DO YOU...
...THINGS SUCH AS ANGELS AND DEMONS THAT CAN EVEN GOVERN FATE?
YOU GOT IT.

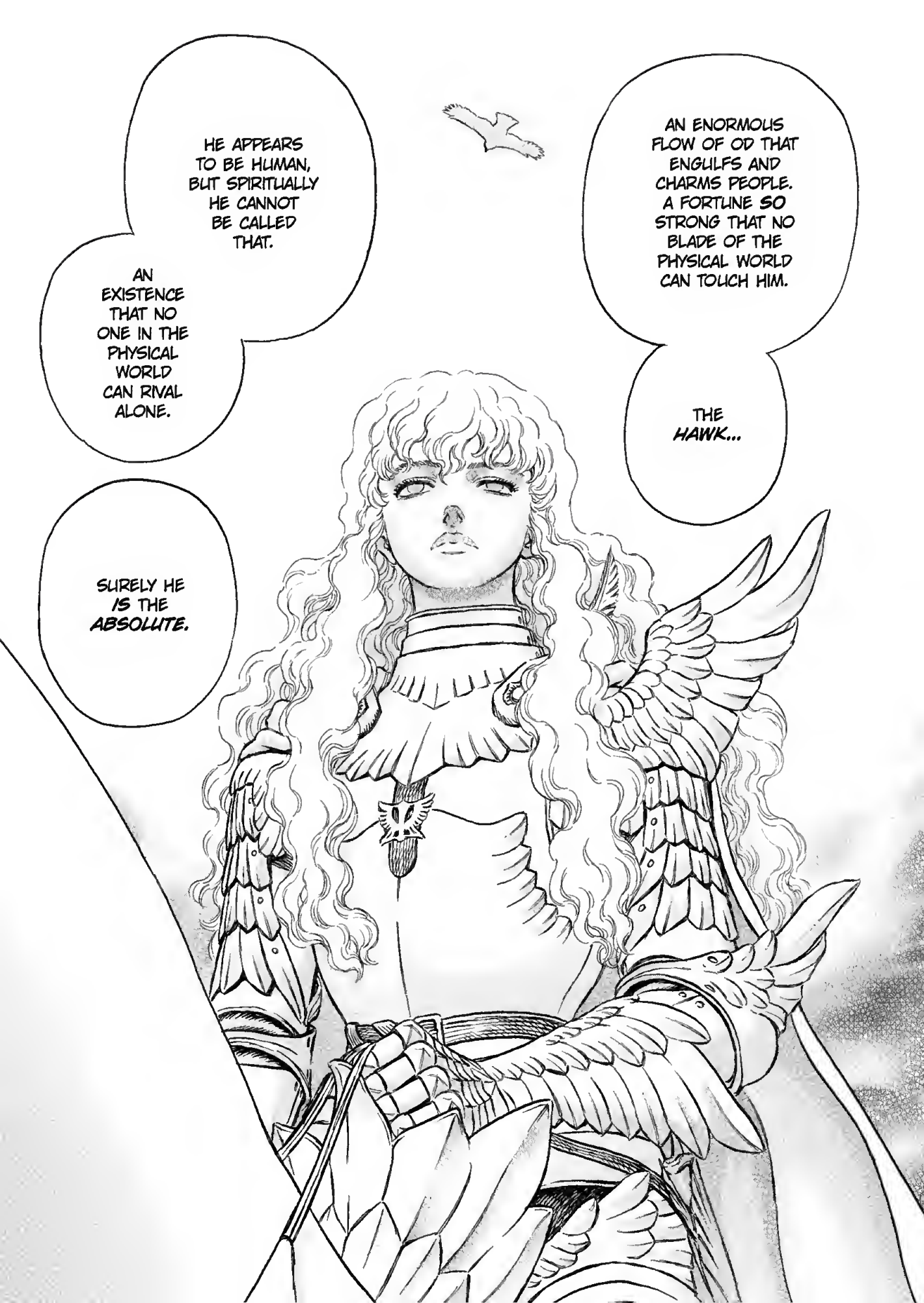

I'M GONNA BATHE BETCHI, TOO.
IT'S GONNA COOK LIKE AN EGG!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SCHIERKE?

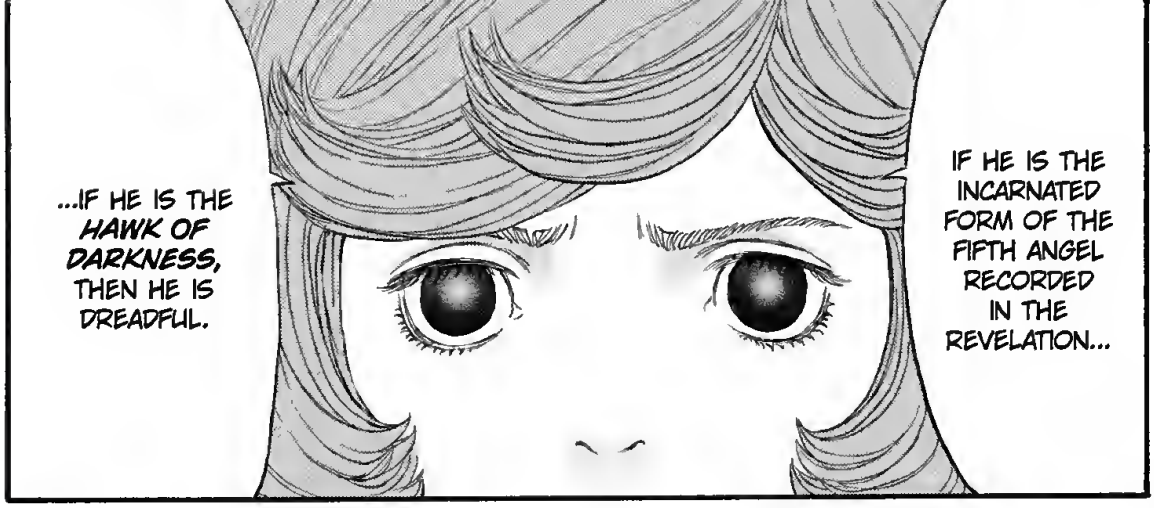

HE IS FOOLISH.
OR MAYBE UNENLIGHTENED...

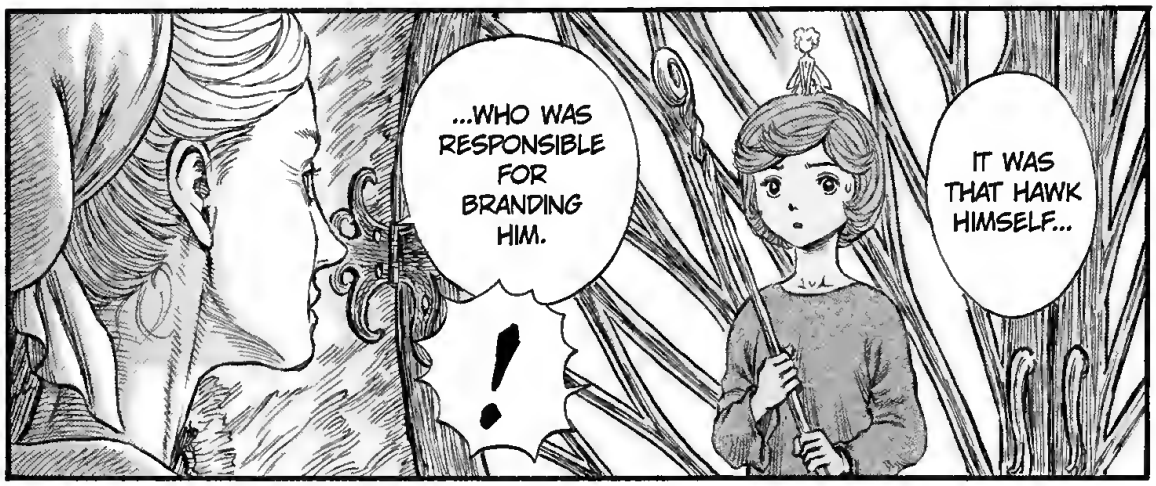

...HIS OPPONENT IS A TRANSCENDENTAL ENTITY BEYOND PHYSICAL REASONING!
BUT...

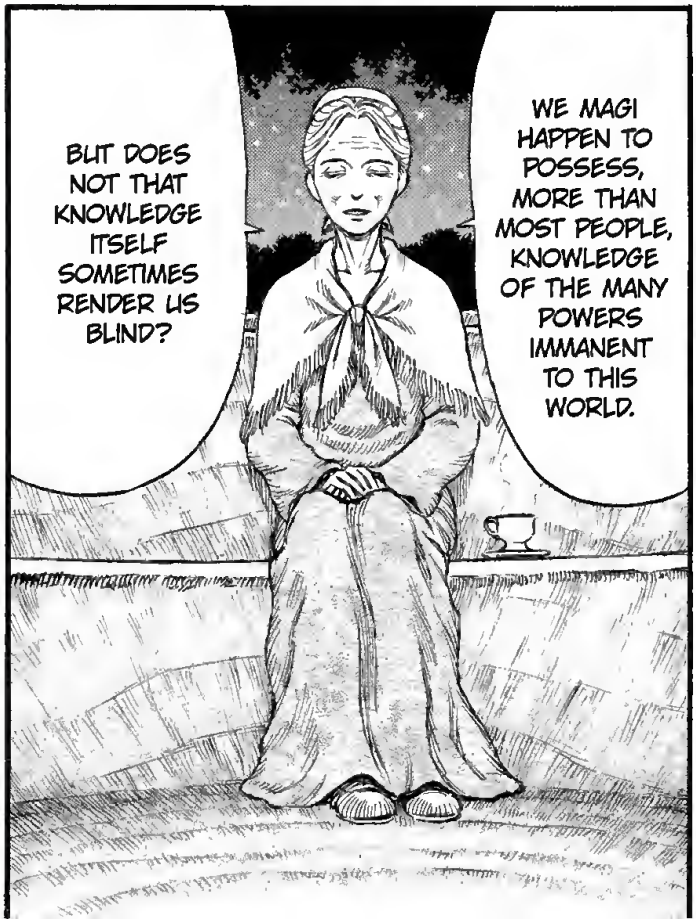

THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ARE INDISPENSABLE EVEN FOR MAGIC.

...I SAW HIM.
WHEN I WENT TO MIDLAND BY YOUR COMMAND TO CONFIRM THE FULFILLMENT OF THE REVELATION...


HE APPEARS TO BE HUMAN, BUT SPIRITUALLY HE CANNOT BE CALLED THAT.
AN EXISTENCE THAT NO ONE IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD CAN RIVAL ALONE.
AN ENORMOUS FLOW OF OD THAT ENGULFS AND CHARMS PEOPLE. A FORTUNE SO STRONG THAT NO BLADE OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD CAN TOUCH HIM.
THE HAWK...
SURELY HE IS THE ABSOLUTE.


IF HE IS THE INCARNATED FORM OF THE FIFTH ANGEL RECORDED IN THE REVELATION...
...IF HE IS THE *HAWK OF DARKNESS*, THEN HE IS DREADFUL.


IT WAS THAT HAWK HIMSELF...
...WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRANDING HIM.
!


WE MAGI HAPPEN TO POSSESS, MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE, KNOWLEDGE OF THE MANY POWERS IMMANENT TO THIS WORLD.
BUT DOES NOT THAT KNOWLEDGE ITSELF SOMETIMES RENDER US BLIND?

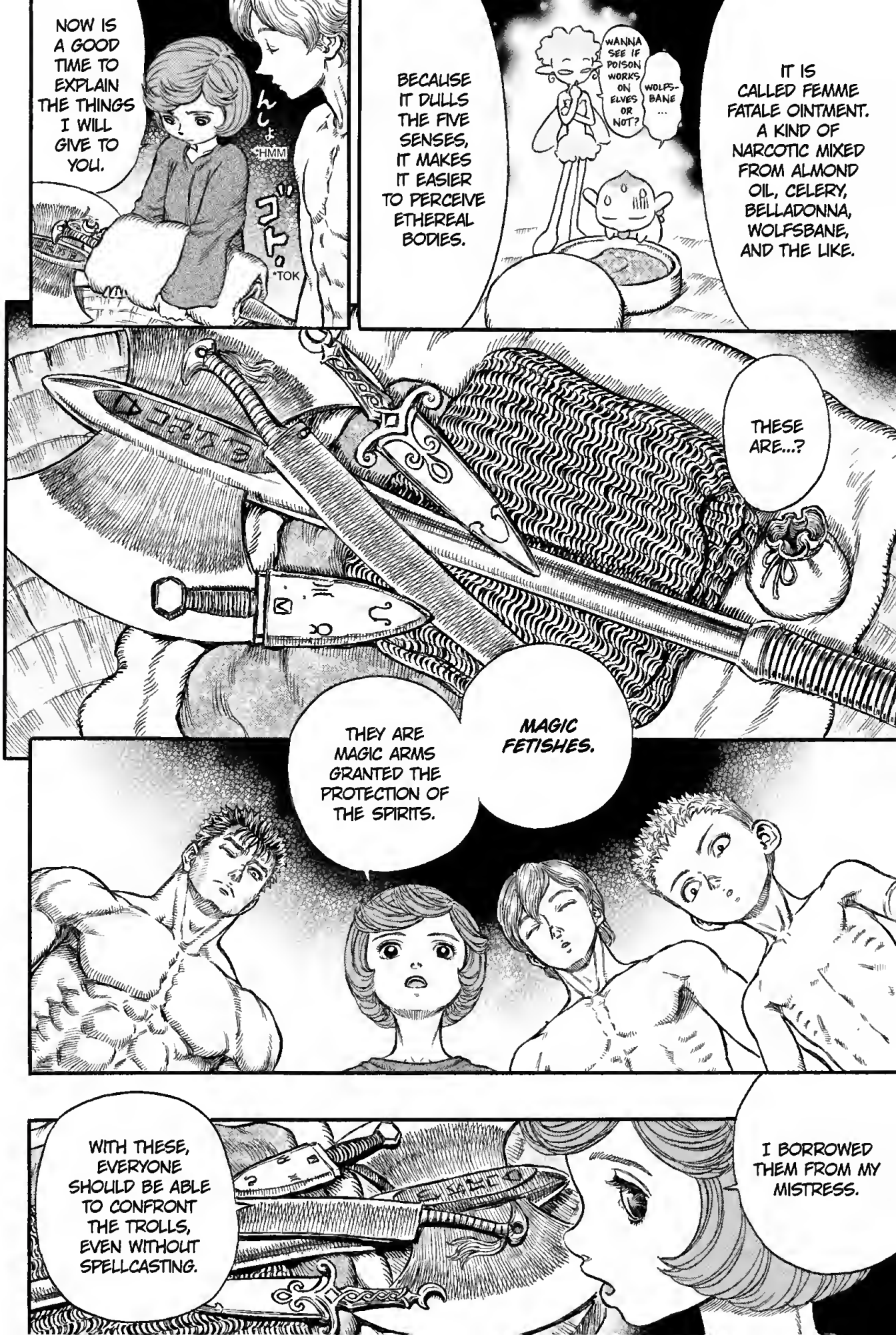
THEN ALL THE MORE REASON ...
SCHIERKE.

YOU SEE...
...HE IS STILL ALIVE.
!
I DO NOT REALLY UNDER-STAND YOUR WORDS.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?
BE NOT ENAMORED SOLELY WITH THE WONDROUS MARVELS ...
...BUT LOOK CLOSELY AT THE TRUTH THAT IS BEFORE YOUR EYES.
HE CONTESTED WITH FATE...
...SURVIVED IT...
...AND ENCOUNTERED YOU.
THE FAVORITE DISCIPLE OF FLORA, WITCH OF THE FOREST OF THE SPIRIT TREE.
SCHIERKE.

GOD BESTOWS UPON US FATE.
BUT IT IS THE CHILDREN OF MEN WHO CHOOSE IT.
THIS IS MY BELIEF.
YOU WISH FOR ME TO *AID* HIM?!
IT IS *YOU* WHO WILL DECIDE THAT.
GO AND WITNESS WITH YOUR OWN EYES...
...THE SIGNIFICANT NATURE THIS ENCOUNTER WILL BEAR FOR YOU.

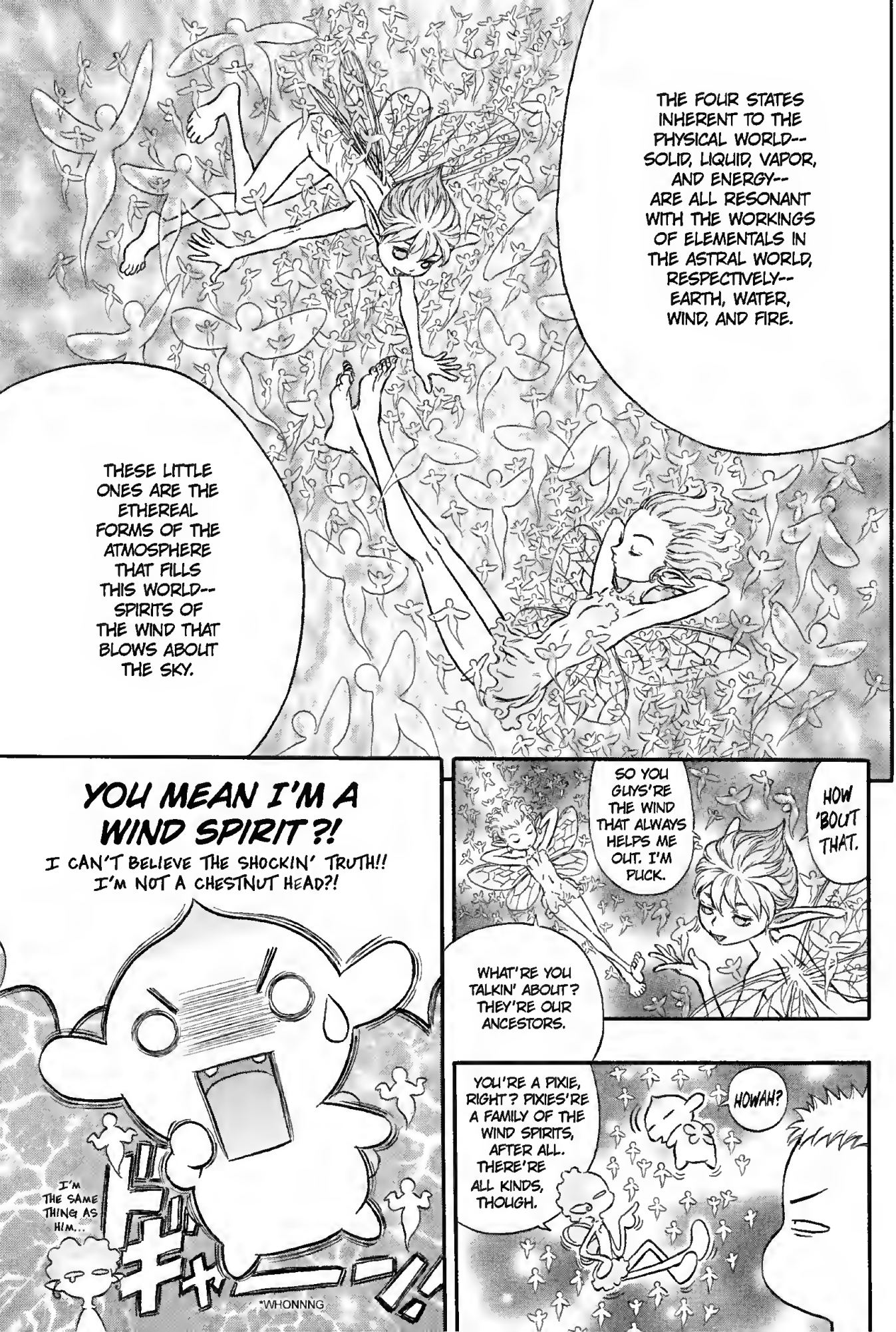
ELEMENTALS

元素霊 (エレメンタル)


NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO EXPLAIN THE THINGS I WILL GIVE TO YOU.
HMM
TOK
BECAUSE IT DULLS THE FIVE SENSES, IT MAKES IT EASIER TO PERCEIVE ETHEREAL BODIES.
WANNA SEE IF POISON WORKS ON ELVES OR NOT?
WOLFS-BANE ...
IT IS CALLED FEMME FATALE OINTMENT. A KIND OF NARCOTIC MIXED FROM ALMOND OIL, CELERY, BELLADONNA, WOLFSBANE, AND THE LIKE.
THESE ARE...?
MAGIC FETISHES.
THEY ARE MAGIC ARMS GRANTED THE PROTECTION OF THE SPIRITS.
WITH THESE, EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONFRONT THE TROLLS, EVEN WITHOUT SPELLCASTING.
I BORROWED THEM FROM MY MISTRESS.

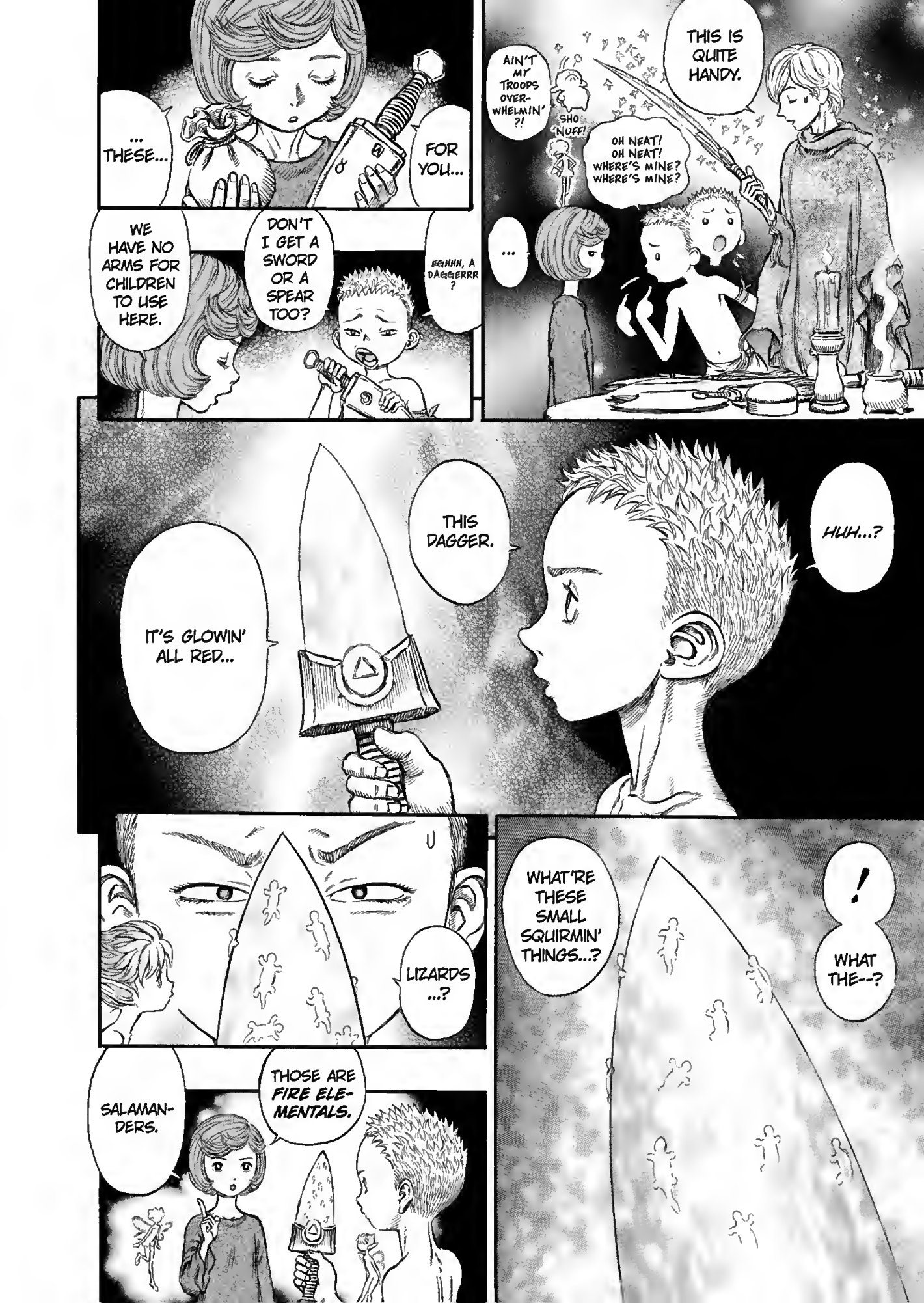
...THIS HOOD AND SWORD.
FIRST, FOR SERPICO...
*WHOOSH
アサ.
*WSS
フワ.
?
*WSS
フワ.
PLEASE LOOK AT IT CLOSELY.
...
*GLOW
IT FLOATS ON ITS OWN...
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
OHHH
WHAT IS THIS HOOD?
I FAINTLY SEE SOME-THING...
OH...?

.....!
SHAPES LIKE TRANSPARENT WINGED INSECTS...
WOW, WHAT'RE THESE TINY GUYS?!
I-IT'S TRUE.
YES, THESE ARE WIND ELEMENTALS.
SYLPHS.
ELEMENTALS.


THE FOUR STATES INHERENT TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD-- SOLID, LIQUID, VAPOR, AND ENERGY-- ARE ALL RESONANT WITH THE WORKINGS OF ELEMENTALS IN THE ASTRAL WORLD, RESPECTIVELY-- EARTH, WATER, WIND, AND FIRE.
THESE LITTLE ONES ARE THE ETHEREAL FORMS OF THE ATMOSPHERE THAT FILLS THIS WORLD-- SPIRITS OF THE WIND THAT BLOWS ABOUT THE SKY.
SO YOU GUYS'RE THE WIND THAT ALWAYS HELPS ME OUT. I'M PUCK.
HOW 'BOUT THAT.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? THEY'RE OUR ANCESTORS.
YOU'RE A PIXIE, RIGHT? PIXIES'RE A FAMILY OF THE WIND SPIRITS, AFTER ALL. THERE'RE ALL KINDS, THOUGH.
HOWAH?
YOU MEAN I'M A WIND SPIRIT?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SHOCKIN' TRUTH!! I'M NOT A CHESTNUT HEAD?!
I'M THE SAME THING AS HIM...
*WHONNNG

THAT IS THE SYLPH HOOD, A FETISH GRANTED THE PROTECTION OF THE ELEMENTALS.
HE WHO WEARS IT IS CLAD IN ATMOSPHERIC CURRENT...
...AND CAN SWEEP ASIDE SWORDS AND ARROWS.
ALSO GRANTED THE WIND'S PROTECTION IS THE SYLPH SWORD.
ONE SWING CAN GENERATE A WHIRLWIND...
THE BLADE IS MADE FROM A WHITE-SHOULDERED EAGLE'S FEATHER AND THE HILT FROM MISTLETOE GROWING ON THE HIGHEST BRANCH IN THE FOREST.
...THAT CAN TEAR THE ENEMY'S FLESH WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING IT.
THIS... IS A SWORD? OR A FEATHER DUSTER ...?

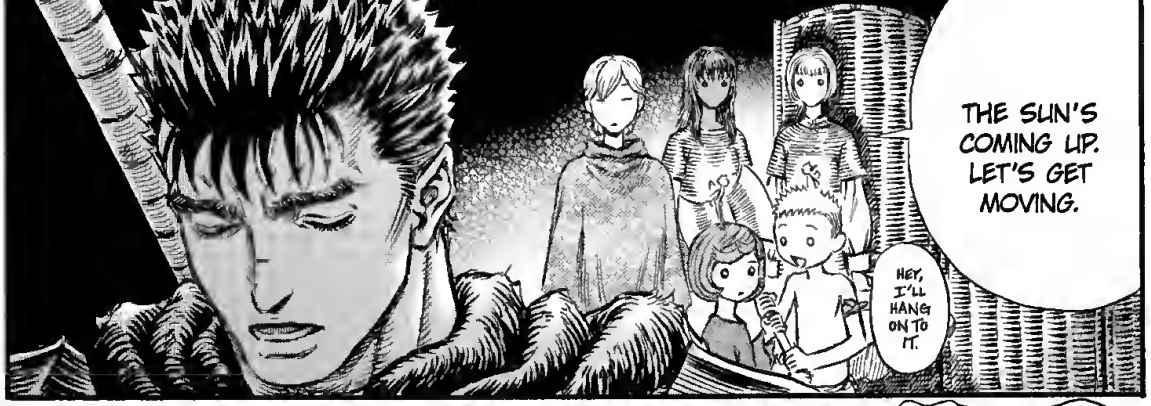
*SHMM
MIGHT I GIVE IT A TRY?
PLEASE.
THAT WAS QUICK!
YOU MAKIN' FUNNA MY FAMILY?!
KINDA WEAK, HUH?
NOW, SERPY! WITNESS WELL THE POWER OF MY BRETHREN!
.....
*VWAAA
*FWFF
*WHRRL
*OHH
SEE?!

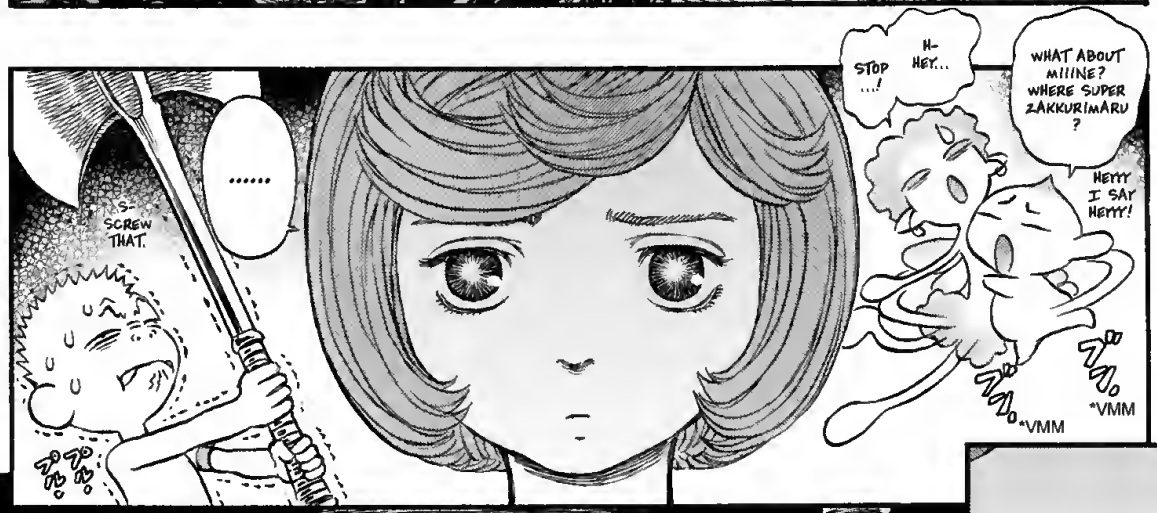

... THESE...
FOR YOU...
WE HAVE NO ARMS FOR CHILDREN TO USE HERE.
DON'T I GET A SWORD OR A SPEAR TOO?
EGHHH, A DAGGERRR ?
AIN'T MY TROOPS OVER-WHELMIN' ?!
SHO 'NUFF!
OH NEAT! OH NEAT! WHERE'S MINE? WHERE'S MINE?
THIS IS QUITE HANDY.
...
HUH...?
THIS DAGGER.
IT'S GLOWIN' ALL RED...
WHAT'RE THESE SMALL SQUIRMIN' THINGS...?
!
WHAT THE--?
LIZARDS ...?
SALAMAN-DERS.
THOSE ARE *FIRE ELE-MENTALS.*

THE BLADE OF THE SALAMANDER DAGGER IS MAGICALLY CRAFTED FROM MOLTEN LAVA.
CUTS MADE WITH THAT DAGGER WILL IGNITE AND BURN AS IF STRUCK BY A HOT IRON.
*BWOOSH
FIRE'S DANGEROUS. GO WITH WIND, IT'S COOLER.
HMMM ...
*FX CHNK
RAH.
THOSE ARE CONSECRATED BERRIES. YOU CAN SCATTER THE TROLLS IF YOU THROW THOSE AT THEM.
SO, WHAT'S THIS?
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR STYLE.
HE IS THE DANGEROUS TYPE TO GET HIS HANDS ON THINGS.
SO I SAY, BUT LADY FARNESE IS EVEN WORSE.
YOU MUSTN'T GIVE HIM THAT! THE WORLD'LL BURN IN A SEA OF FIRE...!
THIS'S SWEET.
SALAMANDERS ARE HOOLIGANS!
...
IT IS DANGEROUS! DON'T BRANDISH IT SO RECKLESSLY!
*FWMP
*FWMP
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST NOT TO GET IN THE WAY LIKE YOU DID BEFORE.
I-I'M ABOUT TO GET IN YOUR WAY NOW...
NOW, NOW.
SAME FOR YOU.
BUT IT IS MY MISTRESS' COMMAND, SO OH WELL.
*SIGH
THEY ARE AT BEST FOR SELF-DEFENSE. IF IT WERE UP TO ME, I WOULD NOT BRING ALONG SOMEONE AS UNBRIDLED AS YOU.
SAY WHAT?!

FOR OUR TWO LADIES, FARNESE AND CASCA...
...SILVER CHAIN SHIRTS.
ALSO A SILVER KNIFE FOR FARNESE.
IT'S GLOWING FAINTLY.
SILVER HAS STRONG TALISMANIC PROPERTIES.
WHEN THE TIME COMES TO USE THE FETISHES, PLEASE ENVISION THE FAINT FIGURES YOU SEE NOW AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE.
THEIR EFFICACY IS REALIZED BY THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FAITH IN THEIR ASTRAL POWER.
AND IF YOU USE THIS POWER, DO NOT FORGET TO APPRECIATE THE ELEMENTALS! IN THE END, THE POWER OF THE FETISHES DEPENDS ON THEM, NOT YOU.
I HOPE WE CAN ALL WORK WELL TOGETHER.
I EXPECT THE VERY BEST FROM YOU, MY ELITE SOLDIERS!
ALSO, THE DEEPER THE MUTUAL TRUST GROWS, THE MORE POWER THEY ARE LIKELY TO LEND YOU.
YEAHHH!! LET'S DO THIS, FIRE THINGS!!
FINALLY, I HAVE THIS FOR GUTS...
STAGGER
STAGGER

I DON'T NEED IT.
I WANT TO TAKE INTO BATTLE WHAT MY HAND KNOWS BEST.
GCHAK
ガチャ
BUT WHY NOOOT? WHAT A WASTE. JUST TAKE IT.
.....
NO... I'M FINE.
HOW UN-GRATE-FUL!

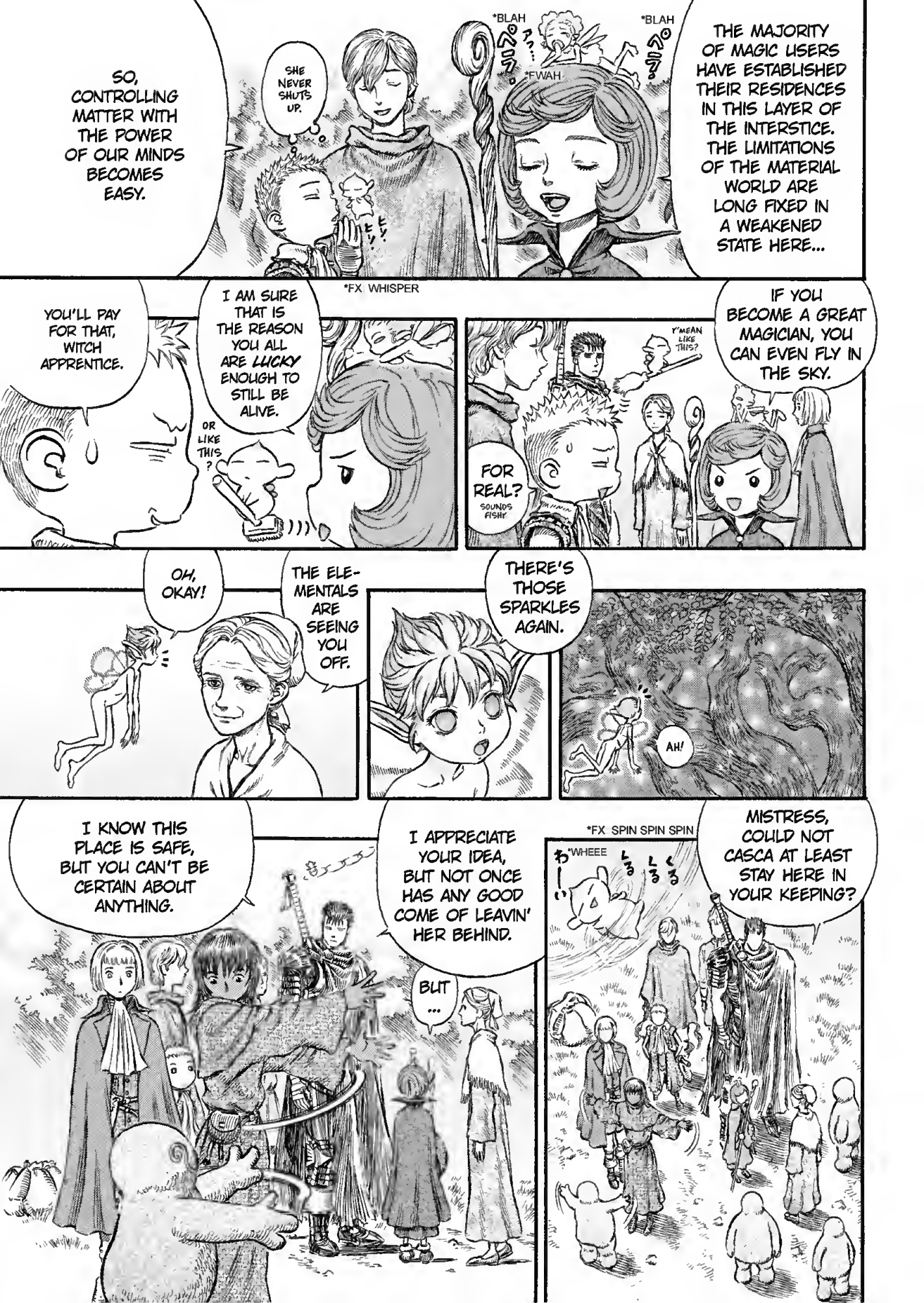

THE SUN'S COMING UP. LET'S GET MOVING.
HEY, I'LL HANG ON TO IT.


S-SCREW THAT.
.....
STOP ...!
H-HEY...
WHAT ABOUT MIIINE? WHERE SUPER ZAKKURIMARU ?
HEYYY I SAY HEYYY!
*VMM
*VMM

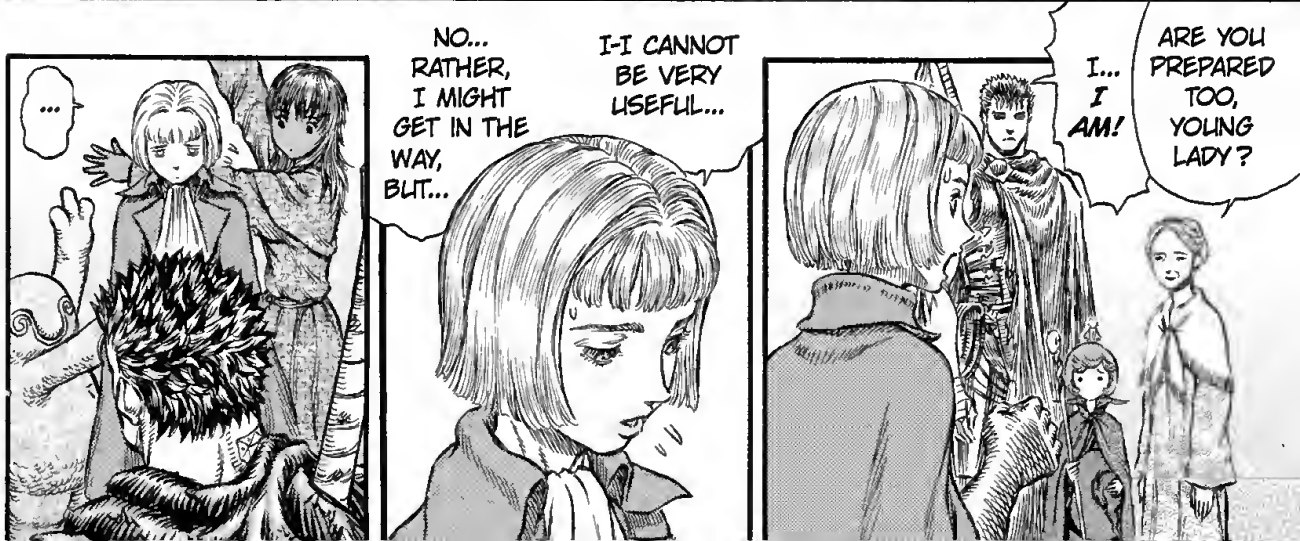
*FX: SHUDDER
*SHIMMER
ボォ。。

WHAT...?
WHA...?
DESPITE IT BEING WINTER, IT FEELS WARM.
THIS IS A MYSTERIOUS PLACE, THOUGH. I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A LARGE TREE BEFORE.
YOUR PHYSICAL BODIES HAVE ADJUSTED TO THE FORMS OF YOUR ESSENTIAL ETHEREAL BODIES.
WHILE YOU ARE HERE, MINOR WOUNDS AND NEW WOUNDS GENERALLY HEAL.
THAT IS VERY CONVENIENT.
ALSO YOUR VINE BURNS.
WHY, MINE TOO.
THE SCRATCHES AND BRUISES I HAD ARE GONE.

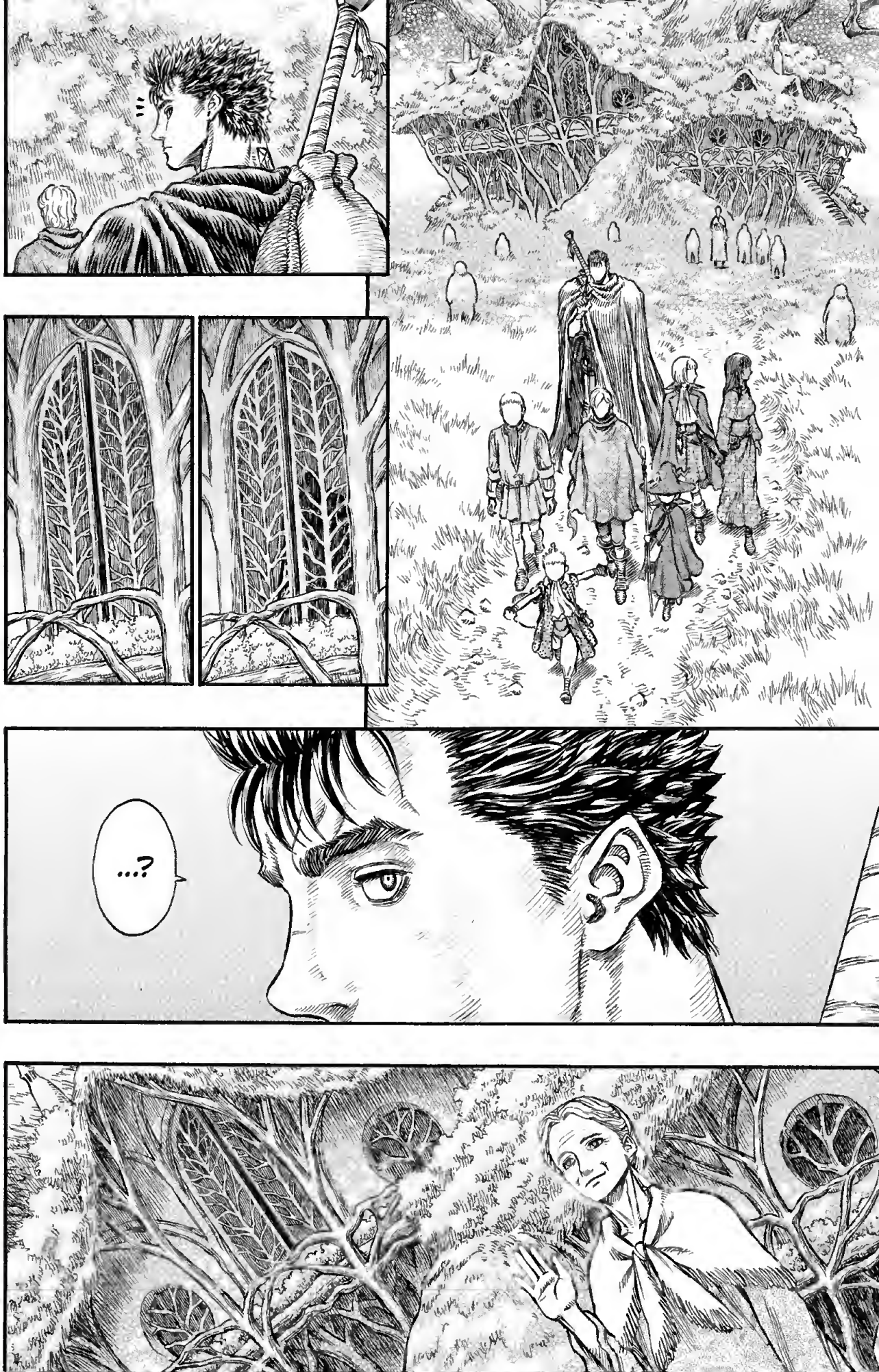
WE ARE IN...
...THE ASTRAL WORLD HERE.
!
THE INTERSTICE STRADDLES THE ASTRAL WORLD AND THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
DUE TO THE CURSED POWER OF THE BRAND, YOU EXIST PRIMARILY IN THE PHYSICAL DOMAIN OF THE INTERSTICE, WHERE THE ASTRAL WORLD IS PERCEIVABLE.
THIS FOREST IS A SLIGHTLY DEEPER ASTRAL DOMAIN OF THE INTERSTICE THAT ONE MAY YET ENTER PHYSICALLY.
TO USE AN ANALOGY, IT IS LIKE THE SHORE-LINE TO THE SEA.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, SO LONG AS THE MISTRESS OF THE MANSION DOES NOT INVITE APPROACH, REGULAR HUMANS CANNOT VISIT HERE. EVEN TO THE EYES OF THOSE WITH STRONG EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION, AT BEST IT SHOULD APPEAR TO BE A MIRAGE.
BUT YOU WHO ARE IN THE SAME LAYER REACHED IT WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM...
THEN, THIS IS...
...THE AFTERLIFE, YOU MEAN? WE HAD A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT.
IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD THIS TREE ROTTED ABOUT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO...
...BUT WHILE IT LIVED IT WAS THE FOCUS OF WORSHIP FOR ALL ARBOREAL ANIMISTS IN THIS REGION.
THE STRONGER THE POWER OF EXISTENCE IS IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD...
...THE LONGER AND MORE SPLENDID ITS SHAPE WILL BE FIXED IN THE ASTRAL WORLD.
OCCASIONALLY IT TAKES ON A MONSTROUS FORM, THOUGH.
THAT EXPLAINS ALL THE FLOWERS.


SO, CONTROLLING MATTER WITH THE POWER OF OUR MINDS BECOMES EASY.
SHE NEVER SHUTS UP.
*BLAH
*BLAH
*FWAH
THE MAJORITY OF MAGIC USERS HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR RESIDENCES IN THIS LAYER OF THE INTERSTICE. THE LIMITATIONS OF THE MATERIAL WORLD ARE LONG FIXED IN A WEAKENED STATE HERE...
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, WITCH APPRENTICE.
I AM SURE THAT IS THE REASON YOU ALL ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO STILL BE ALIVE.
*FX WHISPER
OR LIKE THIS?
Y'MEAN LIKE THIS?
FOR REAL? SOUNDS FISHY
IF YOU BECOME A GREAT MAGICIAN, YOU CAN EVEN FLY IN THE SKY.
OH, OKAY!
THE ELEMENTALS ARE SEEING YOU OFF.
THERE'S THOSE SPARKLES AGAIN.
AH!
I KNOW THIS PLACE IS SAFE, BUT YOU CAN'T BE CERTAIN ABOUT ANYTHING.
I APPRECIATE YOUR IDEA, BUT NOT ONCE HAS ANY GOOD COME OF LEAVIN' HER BEHIND.
BUT ...
*FX SPIN SPIN SPIN
*WHEEE
MISTRESS, COULD NOT CASCA AT LEAST STAY HERE IN YOUR KEEPING?

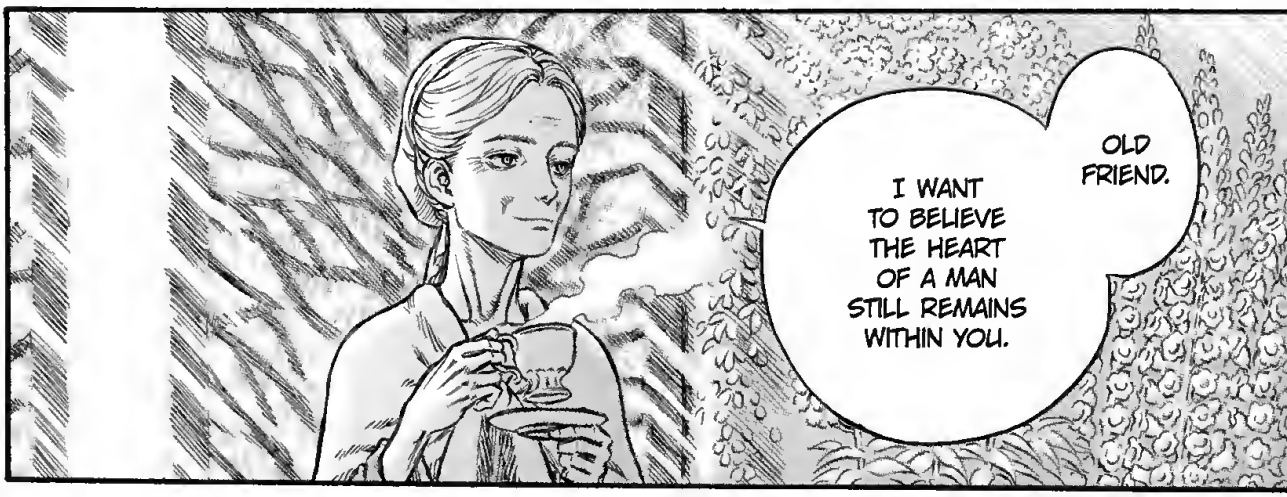
.....
THAT'S THE PATH YOU'VE CHOSEN.
YES.
...I WANT HER SOME-WHERE IN REACH OF MY SWORD.
IN THAT CASE...
I SUPPOSE THAT WILL ALSO BE YOUR PROTECTION FROM HELLFIRE.
.....

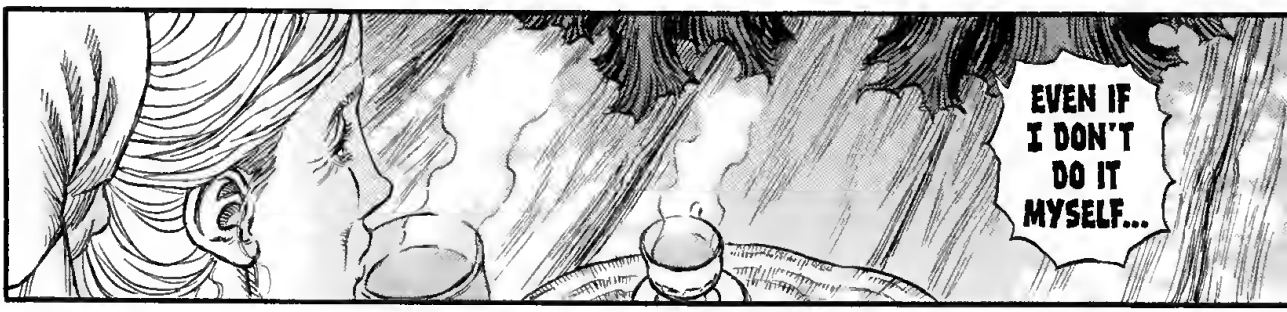

...
NO... RATHER, I MIGHT GET IN THE WAY, BUT...
I-I CANNOT BE VERY USEFUL...
I... I AM!
ARE YOU PREPARED TOO, YOUNG LADY?

A... ALL RIGHT!
YOU CAN PROTECT CASCA.
*GCHAK
IT'D BE SO MUCH EASIER BY MYSELF.
*SIGH
WHAT A TOTAL NUISANCE.
WELL, I SHALL RETURN.
W...
C'MON! LET'S HIT THE ROAD! WE'LL KICK THOSE MONKEYS AROUND!
ESPECIALLY HIM...
*FX. VIP VIP
*banner. WIND GOD
LEAVE IT TO ME.
MAY THE BLESSING OF THE SPIRITS BE UPON YOU ALL.

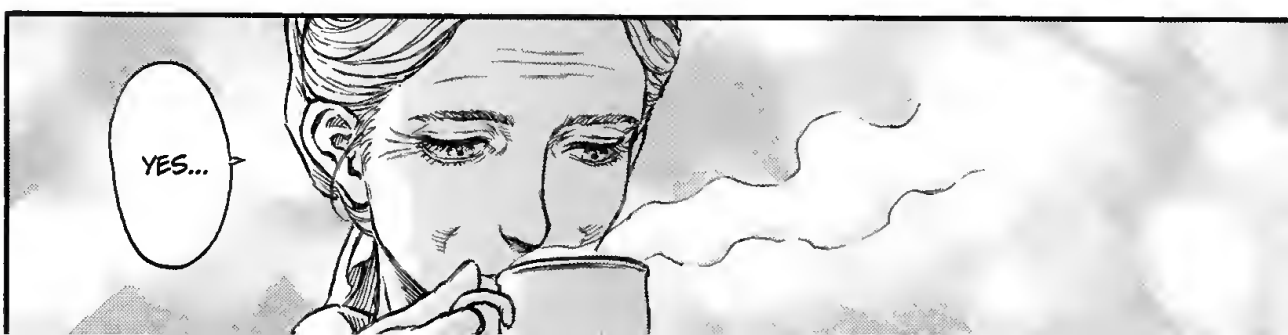


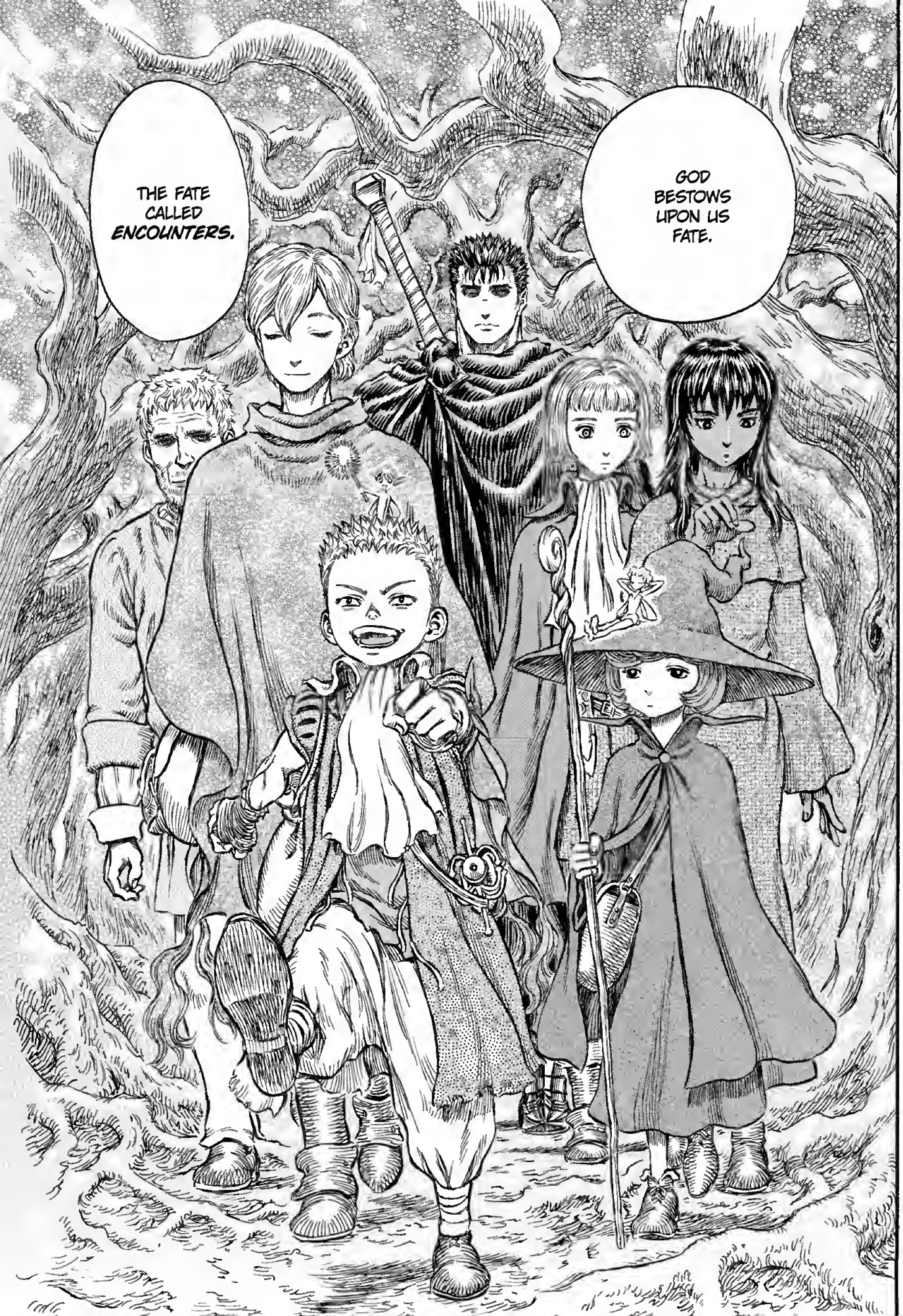
A TOUCH OF UNCERTAINTY, THOUGH...
REALLY...
WHAT BOLD CHILDREN.
*FX. GREE
.....
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING.
YOU WERE HERE, THEN.
ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?
...BROUGHT YOU TO ASK A FAVOR OF ME?
STILL, THOUGH, WHAT STROKE OF FORTUNE...
OR...
...ARE YOU JUST USING HIM...?
IS IT FOR SOMEONE'S SAKE...?
PERHAPS PITY FOR A FELLOW SUFFERER?


OLD FRIEND.
I WANT TO BELIEVE THE HEART OF A MAN STILL REMAINS WITHIN YOU.


EVEN IF I DON'T DO IT MYSELF...

...THAT ONE MAY ALSO BE A FACTOR GUIDED BY THE LAW OF CAUSALITY...

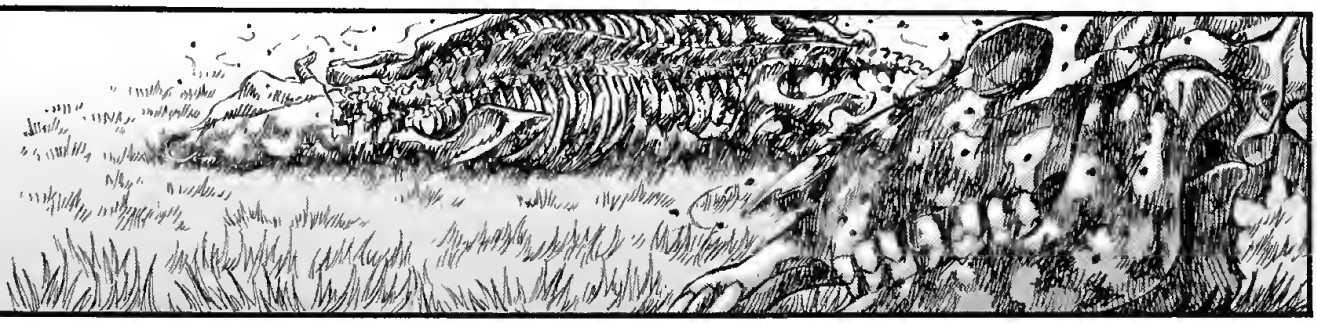

YES...


THE FATE CALLED *ENCOUNTERS.*
GOD BESTOWS UPON US FATE.

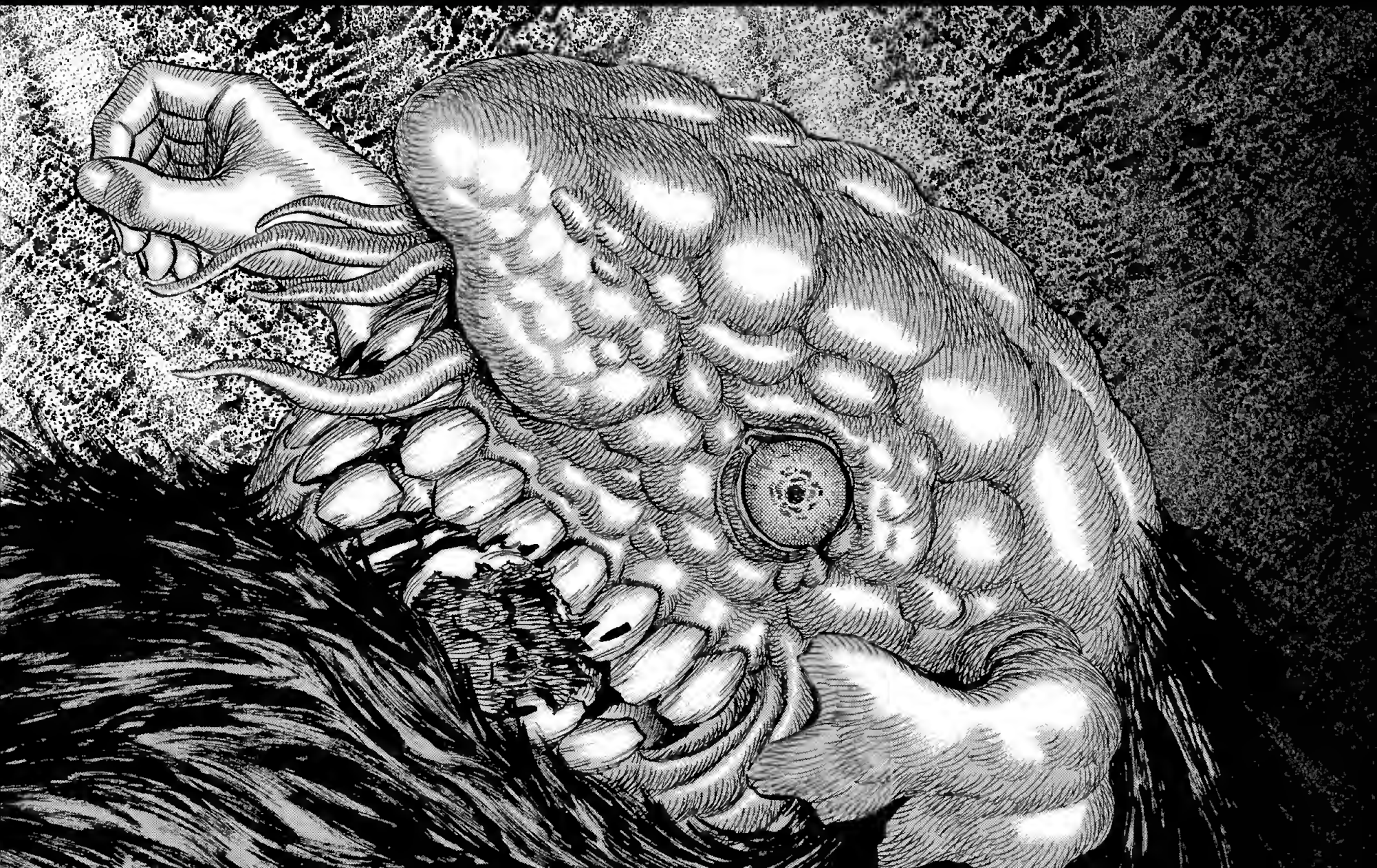
FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

ENOCH VILLAGE
イーノック村

BERSERK



*FX KRNCH KRNCH

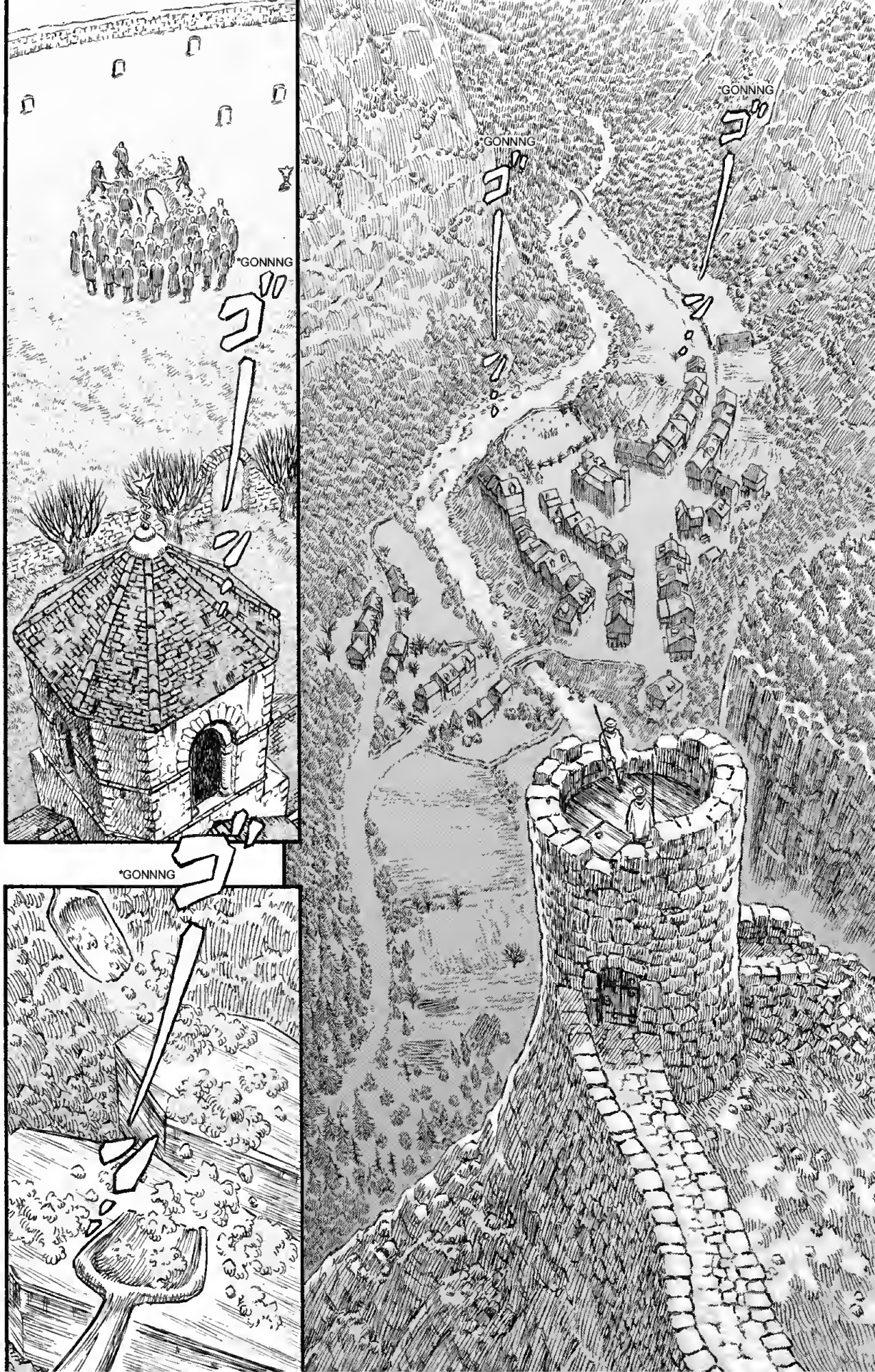


TED... TEEED!!
HE CAN'T BE SAVED NOW!!
NO, HANNAH, STAY AWAY!!
*SHHRIP
AGGHHHH!!
GET AWAY FROM HIM!!
GET AWAY ...!!
HA...
HANNAH ...
*TAGK
*TOK
ア ア ア
*AGGHH
...!!
HANNAH ...!!
*SNATCH!

*THUD
AGH!
*SHRRAK
*LEAP
*ZHA
*FX: HAAAH
IGH...

*SHRRRIP
*SHRRRIP
NOOO!!
GOD DAMMIT!
GET AWAY FROM MY SISTERRR!
FOOL, YOU'LL BE KILLED ...!!
*FX: SHNK SHNK
*FX: HAFF HAFF
HORACE...
...!!

COME ON NOW, HANNAH!!
UGH ...
*GNAWW!
H-HE GOT IT...!!
*CHINK

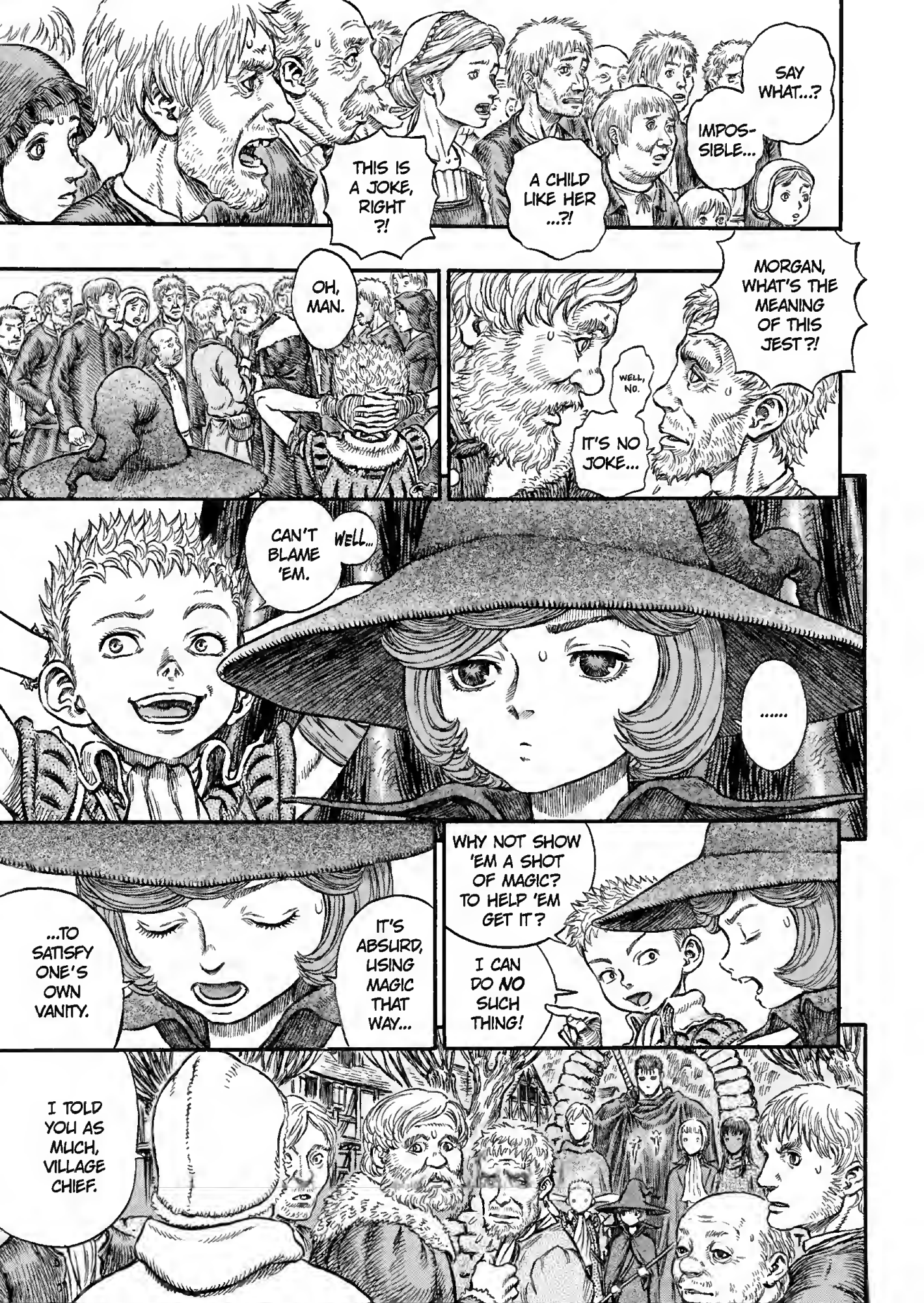

*GONNNG
ゴ
*GONNNG
ゴ
*GONNNG
ゴ
*GONNNG
ゴ
*GONNNG
ゴ

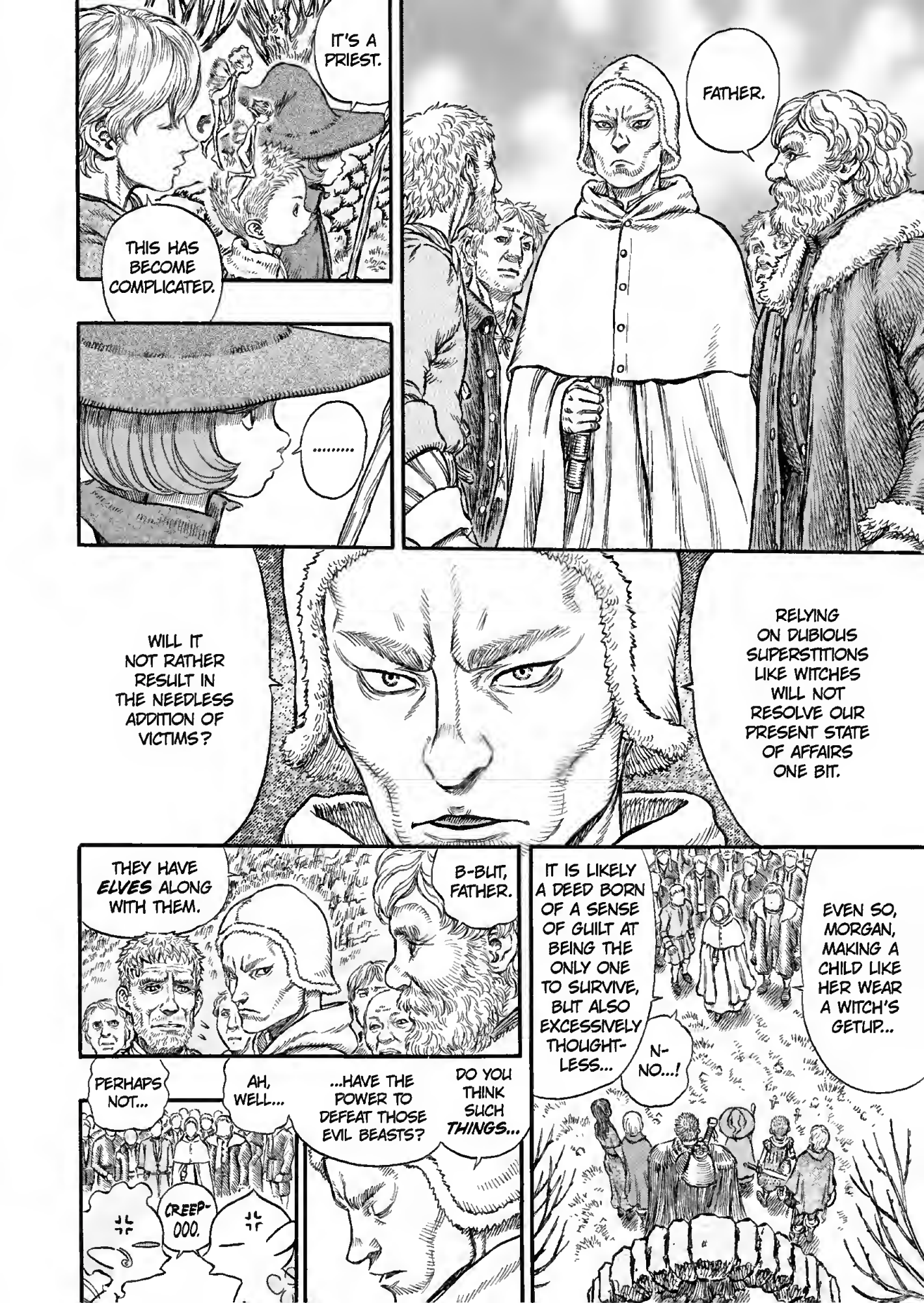
DAMN IT ALL.
OOO
OOO
!
EVERY-ONE!
OLD MAN MORGAN, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!!
MORGAN !!
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
WHOSE COFFINS ?
TED'S AND HORACE'S.
HANNAH GOT CARRIED OFF.
.....
OH.
.....
WELL, WE WERE ATTACKED BY TROLLS IN THE FOREST...
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS ?!
TED WAS ATTACKED WHILE STANDING GUARD AT THE LIVESTOCK BARN, AND WHEN SHE RUSHED OVER TO SAVE HIM, HANNAH WAS RAPED!
HORACE STABBED ONE WITH A PITCHFORK TRYING TO RESCUE HIS SISTER, AND THEN A WHOLE PACK GANGED UP AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH!!

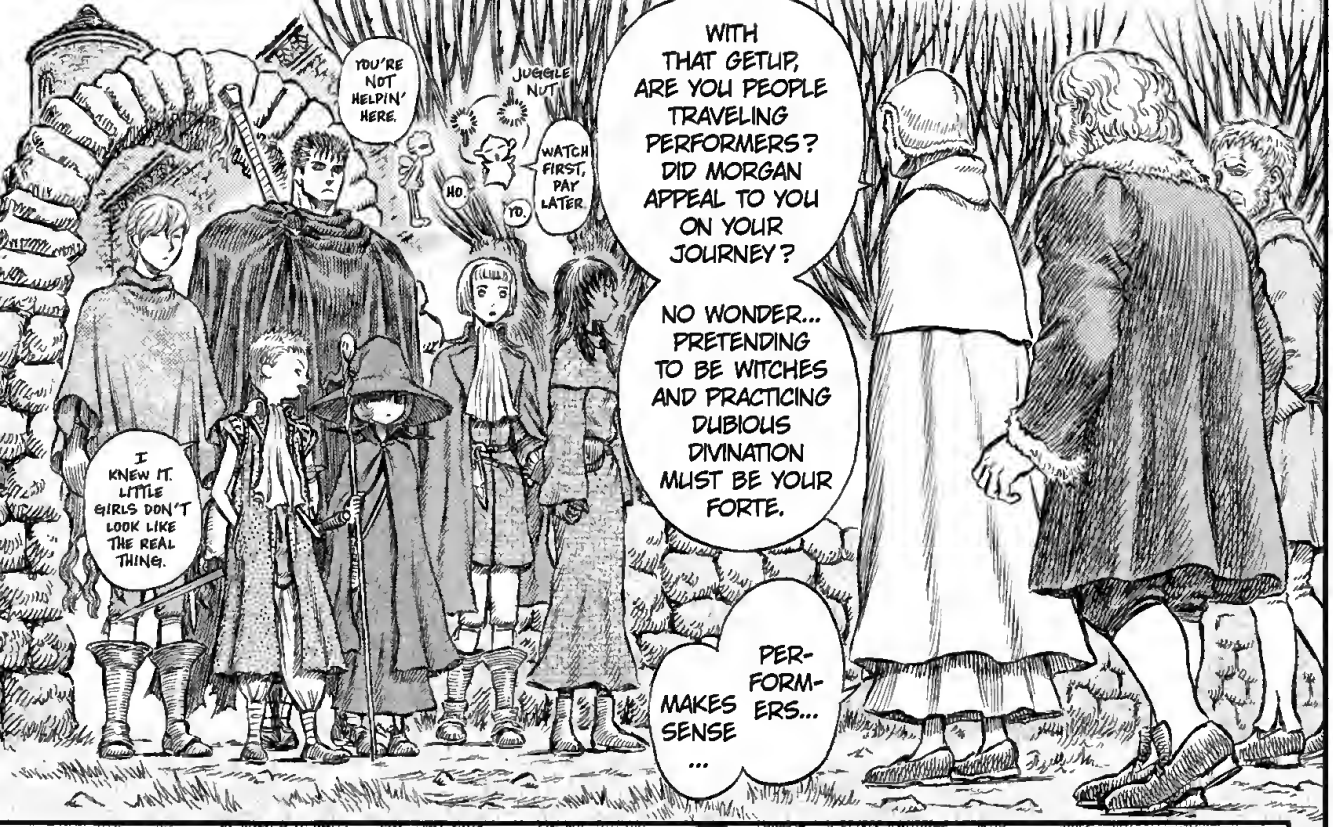
ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF TED AND HORACE WAS *MINCE-MEAT...!!*
WHAT CURSED TIMING. THEY WERE ONLY MARRIED FOUR DAYS AGO.
AND TED AND HORACE WERE BEST FRIENDS.
DAMN IT!! THEY DO SUCH VICIOUS THINGS...!!
THE THREE WERE BROUGHT UP LIKE SIBLINGS AND ALL.
THEY DON'T THINK OF THIS VILLAGE AS MORE THAN A *FOOD TROUGH!!*
I REALIZE IT'S A TIME OF MOURNING, EVERYONE, BUT...
SO? WHAT WAS THE END RESULT, MORGAN?
CHIEF.
THOSE PEOPLE THERE...
...ARE THEM.

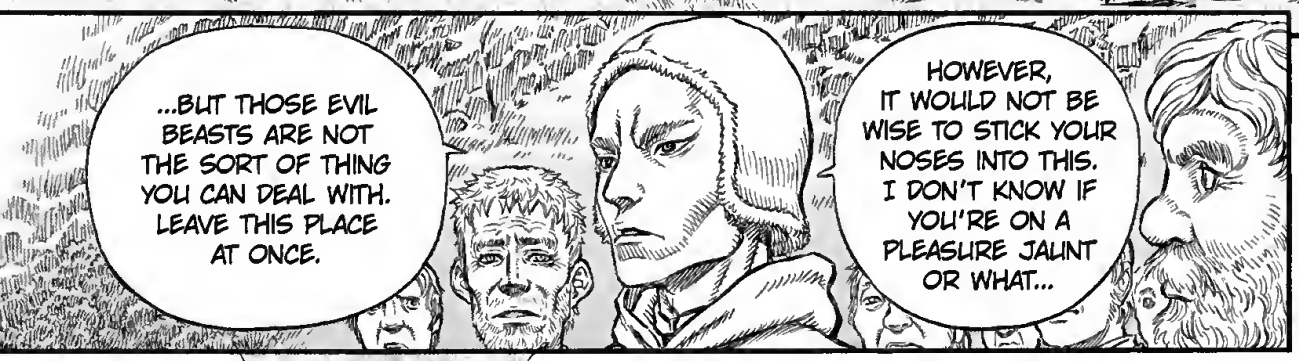
WASSAP.
おお・・・
*OHH...
YOU ALL ARE...
WHO'S THAT BIG MAN?
A SERVANT ...?
HEY, ONE'S A CHILD!
THEY'RE FROM THE SPIRIT TREE FOREST...?
LIFE OF THE PARTY.
WE SEEM TO BE ON EXHIBIT.
THEY'RE ELVES!!
ELVES ...
L-LOOK AT THAT...!
!

SO ONE OF THOSE TWO MUST BE...
UH...
DON'T SAY MEAN THINGS, EVIL AIR-HEAD.
NOOOO!
IT'S IVALERA!
IF SHE HAS THINGS QUEER AS ELVES WITH THEM...
...SHE MUST REALLY BE A WITCH!
THEM'S SOME RUDE FOLKS.
I'LL SAY! I DON'T WANT 'EM GROUPIN' ME WITH YOU!
NO... PEOPLE!
THE HON-ORABLE WITCH IS RIGHT HERE...
...
WHAT'RE YOU HIDIN' FOR?
NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL.
*BOW
ペコ
H...
HELLO.

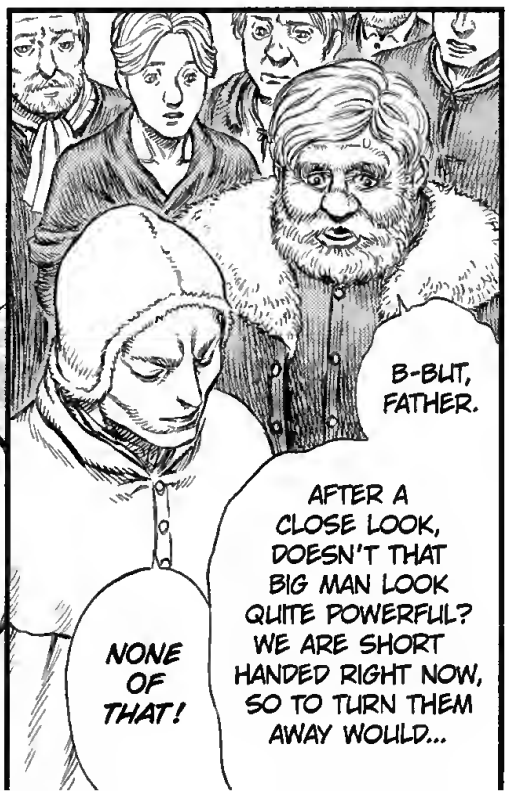

SAY WHAT...?
IMPOS-SIBLE...
A CHILD LIKE HER ...?!
THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT ?!
OH, MAN.
MORGAN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS JEST?!
WELL, NO.
IT'S NO JOKE...
WELL...
CAN'T BLAME 'EM.
.....
WHY NOT SHOW 'EM A SHOT OF MAGIC? TO HELP 'EM GET IT?
I CAN DO NO SUCH THING!
IT'S ABSURD, USING MAGIC THAT WAY...
...TO SATISFY ONE'S OWN VANITY.
I TOLD YOU AS MUCH, VILLAGE CHIEF.


IT'S A PRIEST.
THIS HAS BECOME COMPLICATED.
.....
FATHER.
WILL IT NOT RATHER RESULT IN THE NEEDLESS ADDITION OF VICTIMS?
RELYING ON DUBIOUS SUPERSTITIONS LIKE WITCHES WILL NOT RESOLVE OUR PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS ONE BIT.
THEY HAVE *ELVES* ALONG WITH THEM.
B-BUT, FATHER.
PERHAPS NOT...
AH, WELL...
...HAVE THE POWER TO DEFEAT THOSE EVIL BEASTS?
DO YOU THINK SUCH *THINGS*...
CREEP-OOO.
IT IS LIKELY A DEED BORN OF A SENSE OF GUILT AT BEING THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE, BUT ALSO EXCESSIVELY THOUGHT-LESS...
N-NO...!
EVEN SO, MORGAN, MAKING A CHILD LIKE HER WEAR A WITCH'S GETUP...

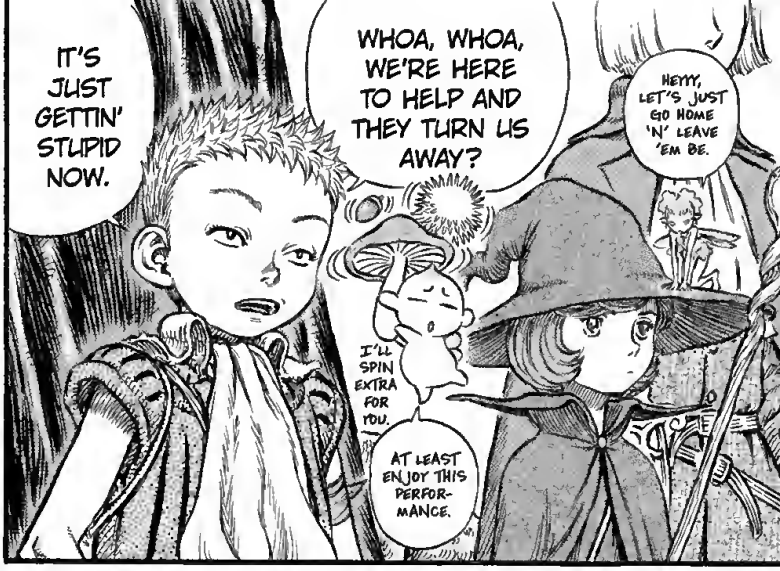

YOU'RE NOT HELPIN' HERE.
JUGGLE NUT
HO
YO.
WATCH FIRST, PAY LATER.
I KNEW IT. LITTLE GIRLS DON'T LOOK LIKE THE REAL THING.
WITH THAT GETUP, ARE YOU PEOPLE TRAVELING PERFORMERS? DID MORGAN APPEAL TO YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY?
NO WONDER... PRETENDING TO BE WITCHES AND PRACTICING DUBIOUS DIVINATION MUST BE YOUR FORTE.
MAKES SENSE ...
PER-FORM-ERS...

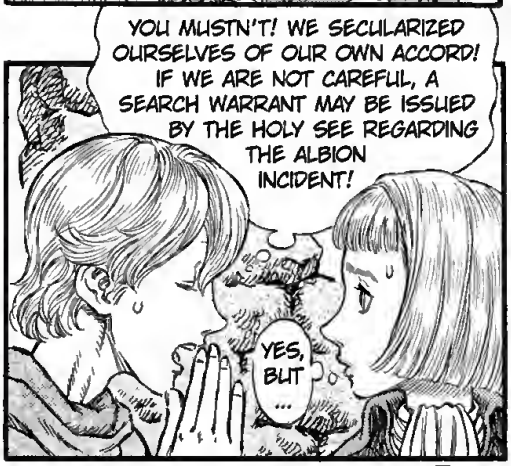

...BUT THOSE EVIL BEASTS ARE NOT THE SORT OF THING YOU CAN DEAL WITH. LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE.
HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO STICK YOUR NOSES INTO THIS. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE ON A PLEASURE JAUNT OR WHAT...

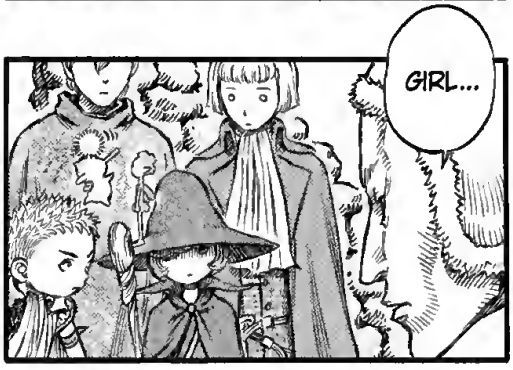
ALL WE CAN DO IS PRAY AND ENDURE.
THIS IS A TEST GIVEN BY GOD TO THIS VILLAGE.


B-BUT, FATHER.
AFTER A CLOSE LOOK, DOESN'T THAT BIG MAN LOOK QUITE POWERFUL? WE ARE SHORT HANDED RIGHT NOW, SO TO TURN THEM AWAY WOULD...
NONE OF THAT!

LADY FARNESE?
I-I WILL HANDLE THIS...
WHEN'LL YOU QUIT?
IT'S MY PERFORM-ER'S BLOOD!

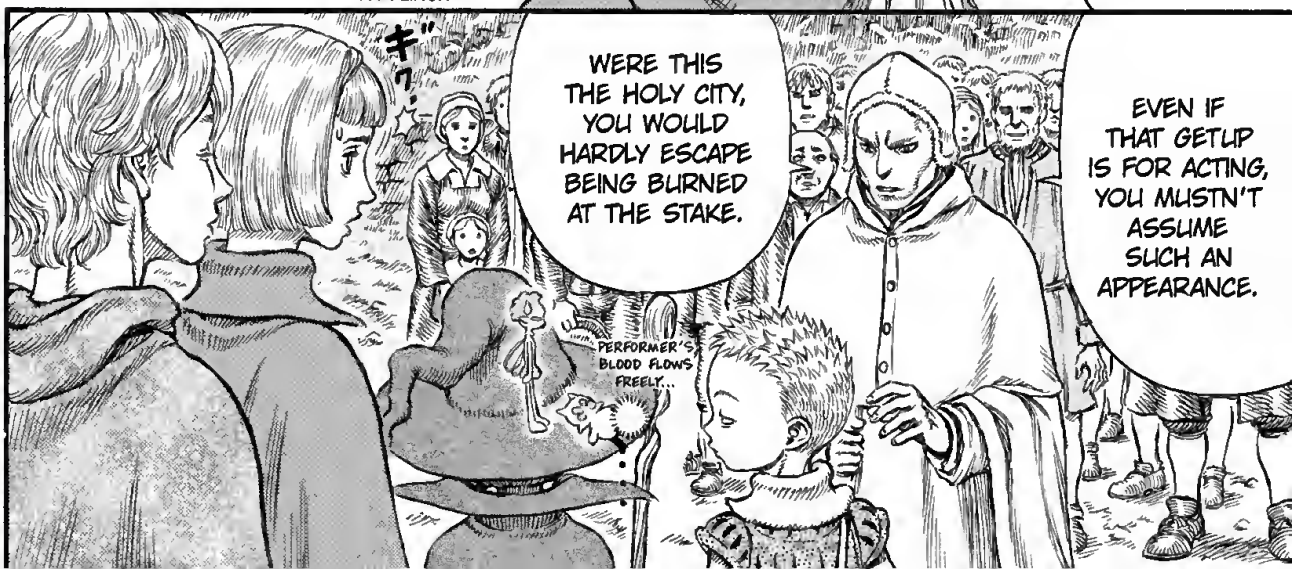

IT'S JUST GETTIN' STUPID NOW.
WHOA, WHOA, WE'RE HERE TO HELP AND THEY TURN US AWAY?
HEYYY, LET'S JUST GO HOME 'N' LEAVE 'EM BE.
I'LL SPIN EXTRA FOR YOU.
AT LEAST ENJOY THIS PERFOR-MANCE.


YOU MUSTN'T! WE SECULARIZED OURSELVES OF OUR OWN ACCORD! IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, A SEARCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED BY THE HOLY SEE REGARDING THE ALBION INCIDENT!
YES, BUT...


GIRL...

HE MIGHT UNDER-STAND IF I DROP THE NAME OF THE COURT SUPREME.

*FX: FLINCH


ギク
WERE THIS THE HOLY CITY, YOU WOULD HARDLY ESCAPE BEING BURNED AT THE STAKE.
PERFORMER'S BLOOD FLOWS FREELY...
EVEN IF THAT GETUP IS FOR ACTING, YOU MUSTN'T ASSUME SUCH AN APPEARANCE.

...SYMBOLS OF APOSTASY AND WICKEDNESS.
WITCHES AND THE LIKE...
...ARE NOTHING BUT...
!
*CLAKANG
*TNK TNK
GU
OO
OO

!
SHE'S INSANE ...?
WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?
*FX. OOOO
OUT OF THERE, NOW!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING ?!
CURSED ...!
カチャ
SORRY.
*FX. GCHAK
AGYAU!
ヒョイ
*HOIST
バタ.バタ.
*FLAIL
*FLAIL

*OOO...
ラ…
*TNNG
パッ
*GLOMP
ガシ
*DMP DMP DMP
ダダダッ
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
YOU SEE HOW IT IS.
LONG JOURNEYS WITH THE SICK AND KIDS'RE REALLY TIRING.
COULD WE HAVE A PLACE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT?
NAY!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR--
SHE'S A PILGRIM, PRAYING TO REGAIN HER HEALTH.

.....
IT'S CUSTOMARY THAT THE CHURCH ...
...SHOW CHARITY TO PILGRIMS.
I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE...
...FOR WHAT HAPPENS.
*FLUTTA
WE OWE YOU ONE.
L...
LOOK AT THAT SWORD !!
A-AMAZIN' ...!!
IS IT REAL ...?
THAT LEFT ARM...
*HMPH

.....
FATHER ?
PREPARE LODGING FOR THEM, CHIEF.
THAT WAS GOOD THINKING.
GEEZ, YOU TWO..
ME TOO.
ANY-WAY, I'M HUN-GRY
LET'S GO, IT'S BAD TO HOLD UP A FUNERAL.
GO AND WITNESS WITH YOUR OWN EYES...
...THE SIGNIFICANT NATURE THIS ENCOUNTER WILL BEAR FOR YOU.

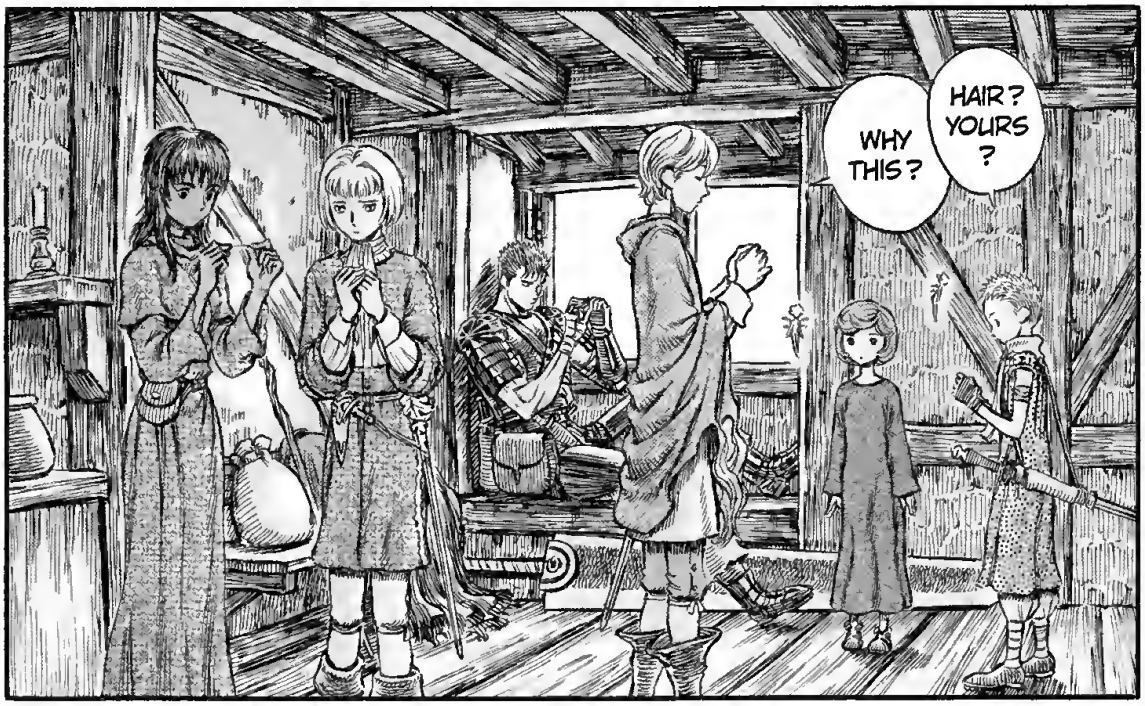
FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

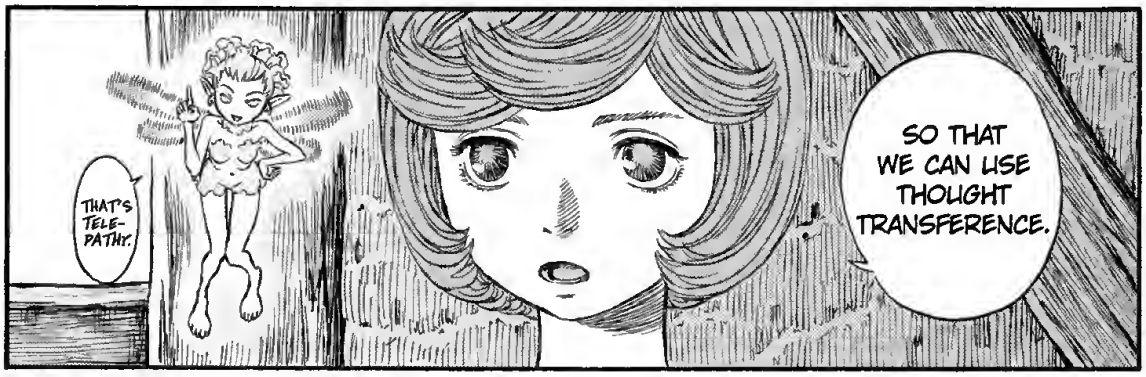
AMBITION AND REFLECTION

野望と追憶

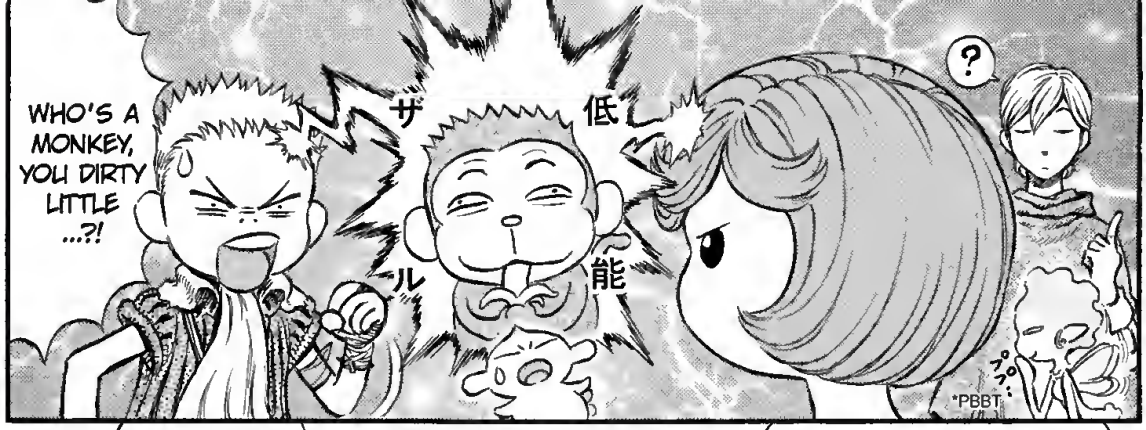
BERSERK

...PLEASE TIE THIS AROUND YOUR FINGER.
EVERYONE ...

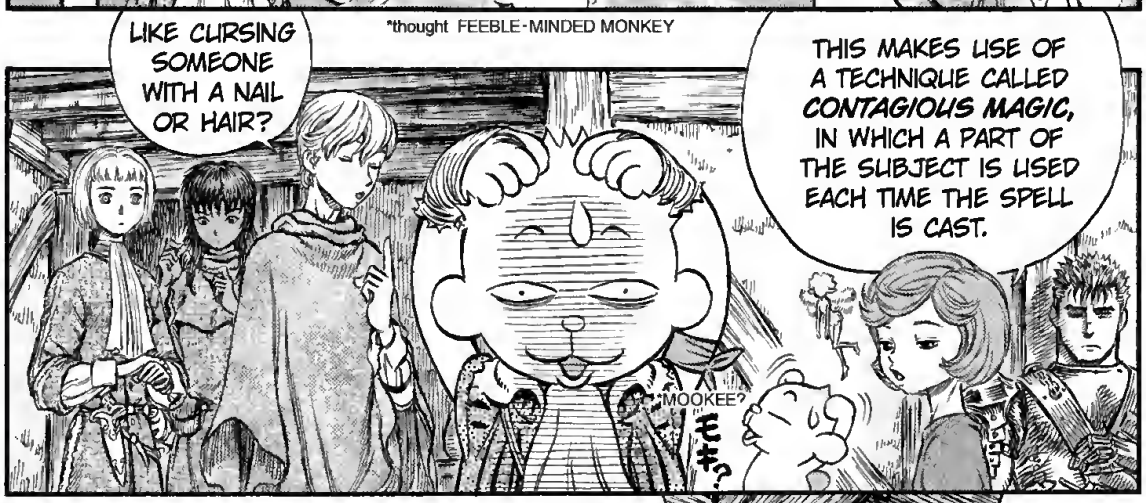

WHY THIS?
HAIR? YOURS?

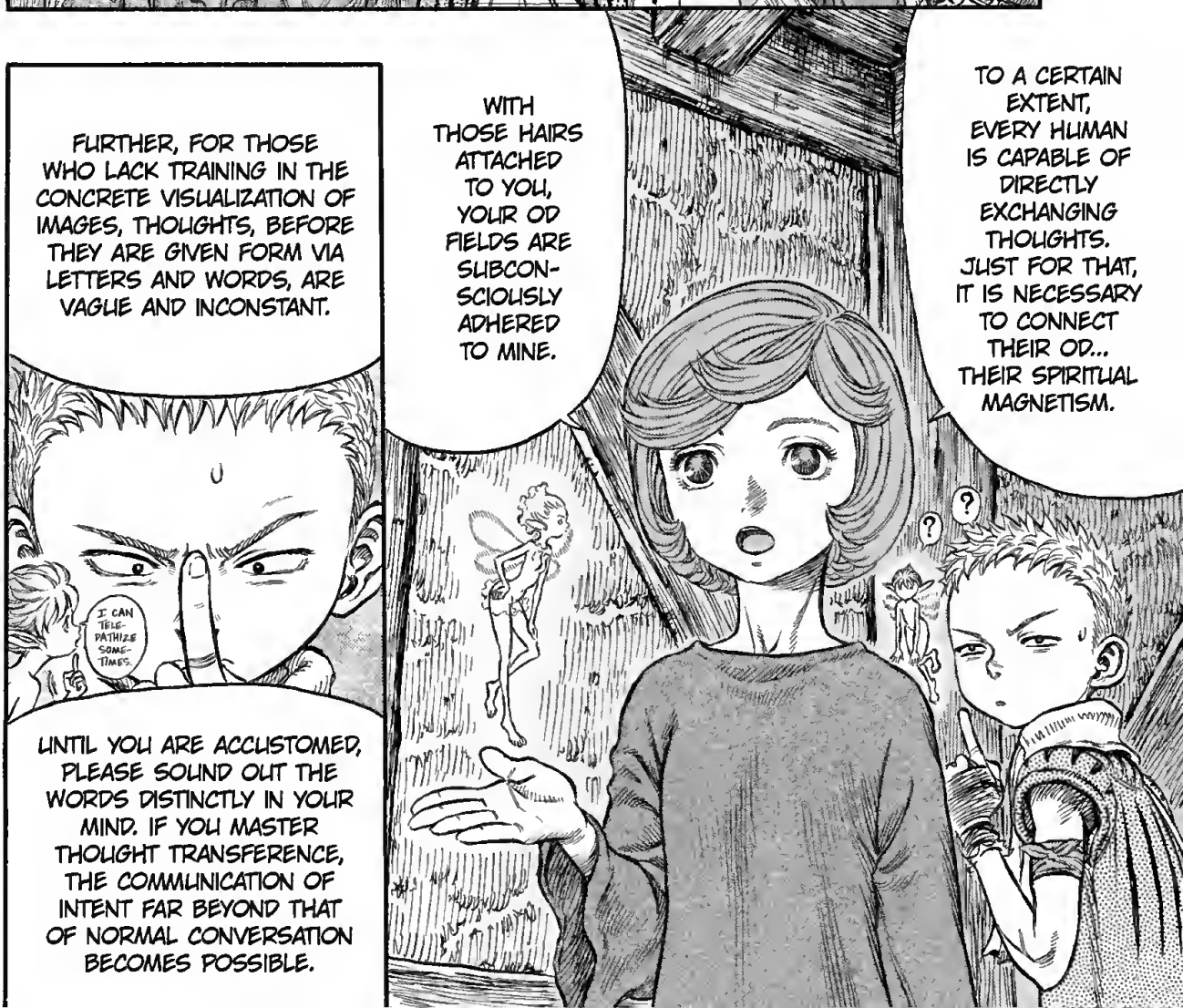

THAT'S TELE-PATHY.
SO THAT WE CAN USE THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE.

WHERE?
THERE YOU ARE!
.....
THOUGHT TRANSFER-ENCE? SOUNDS FAKE TO ME.

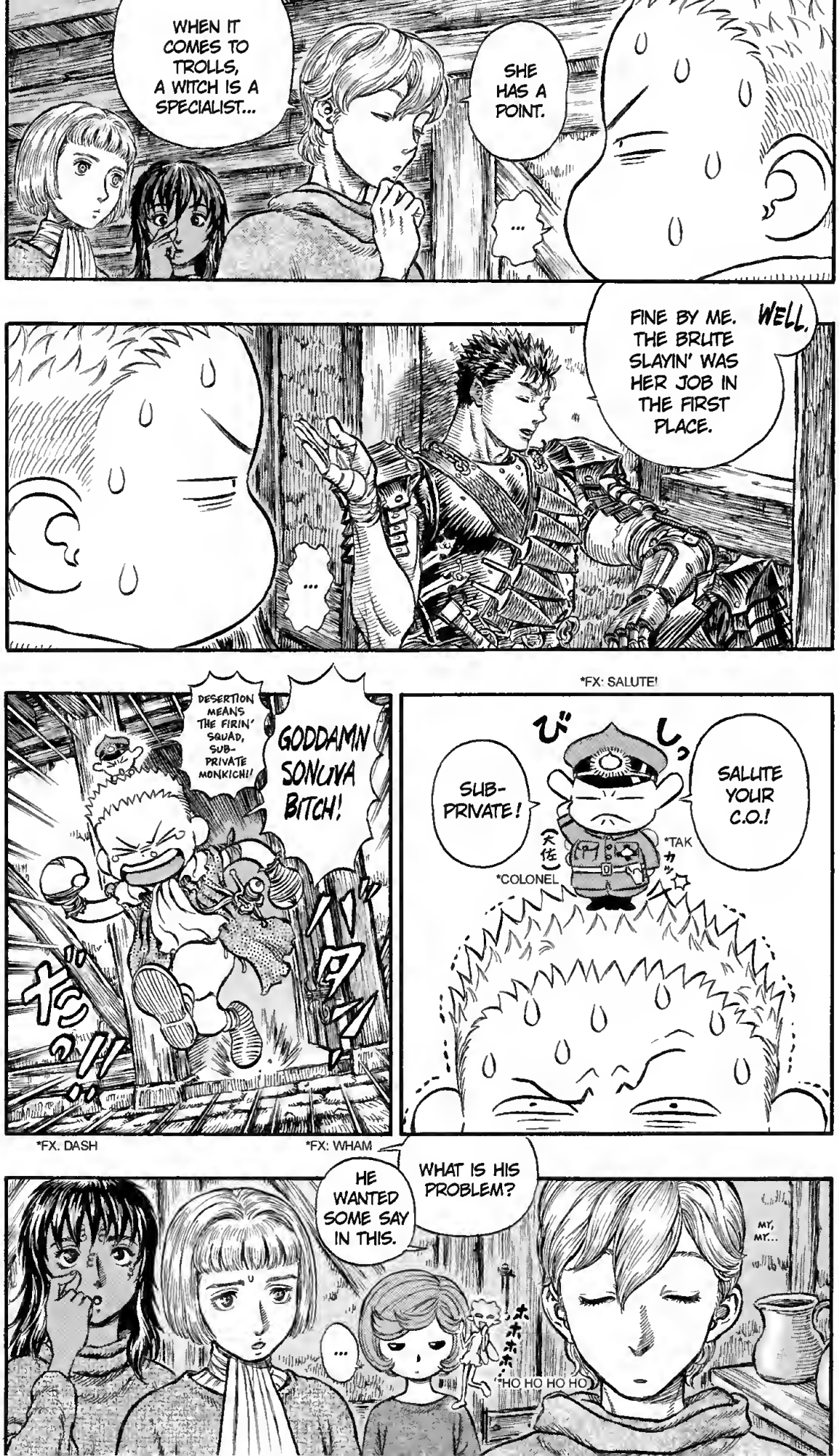


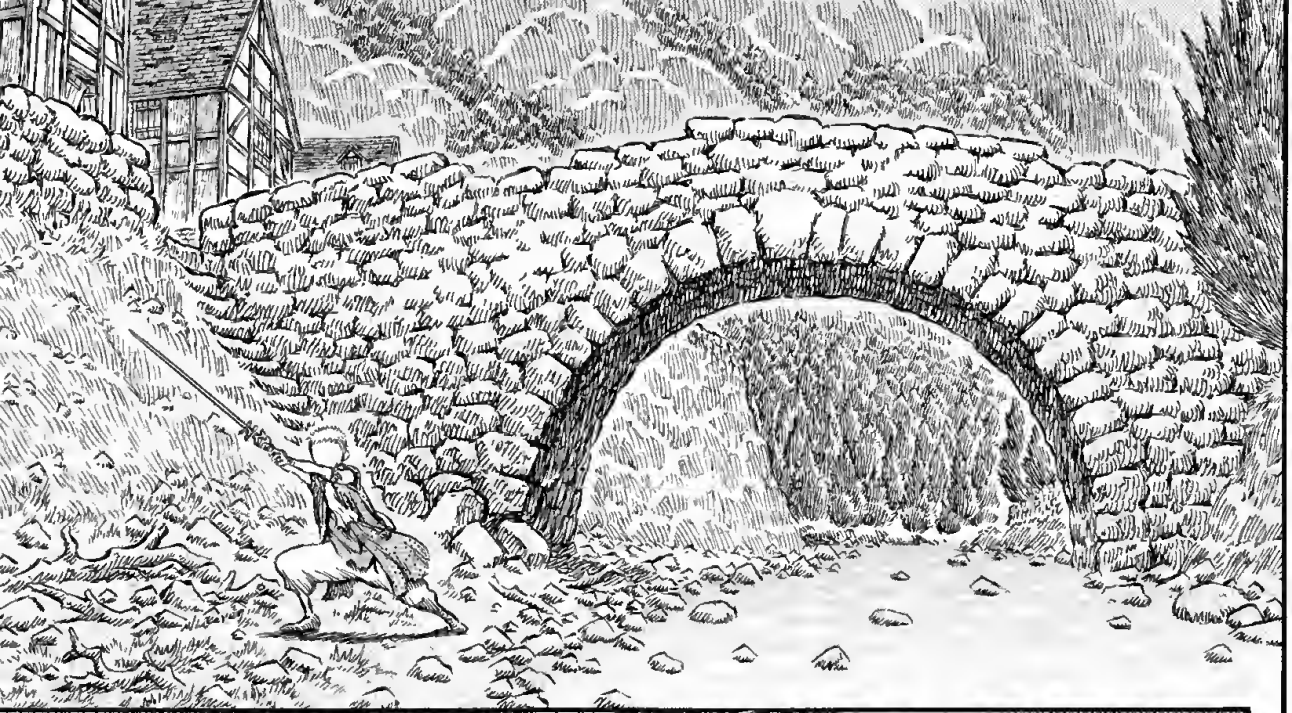
*thought FEEBLE-MINDED MONKEY

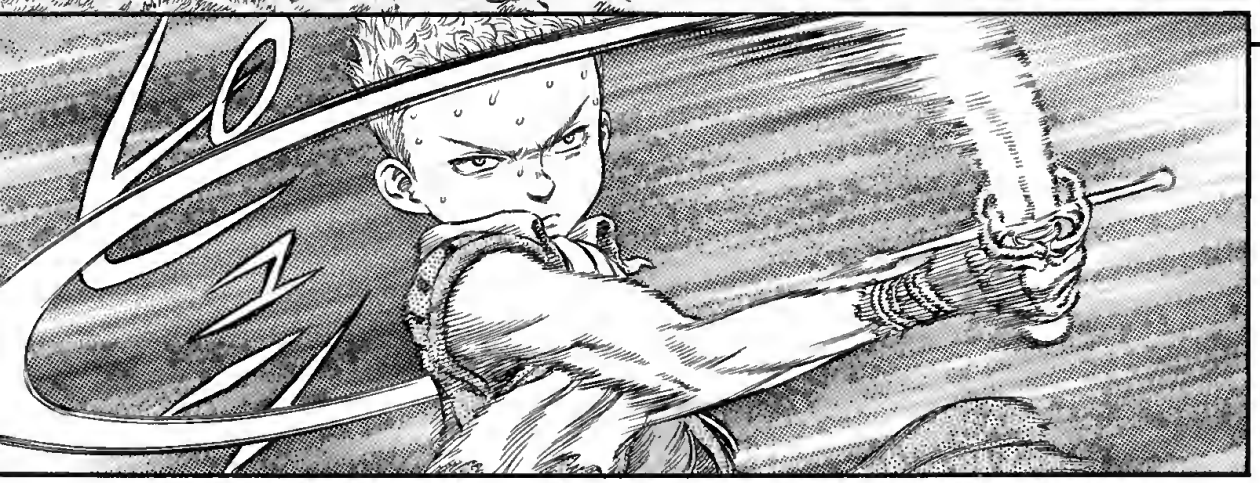




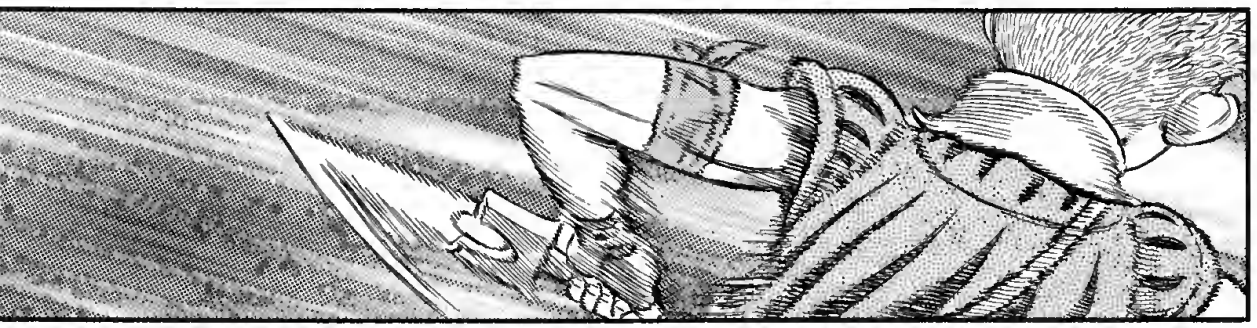
...IN REGARDS TO THIS TROLL SLAYING...
...I WANT EVERYONE TO ABIDE BY MY INSTRUCTIONS.
JUST WITH YOU? ANYONE ELSE?
THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE SO SOON.
AND SO...
*AHEM
コホン。
COME AGAIN?!
NATU-RALLY.
BEING THE MAGIC USER, I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GRASP THE ENTIRE PROGRESS OF THE BATTLE AND CONVEY IT TO EVERYONE.
GH!
WHO'S GONNA BE WRAPPED AROUND THE FINGER OF SOME LITTLE GOODY-GOODY LIKE YOU?!
IT MAKES THE MOST SENSE.
TH-THAT AIN'T FUNNY!! JUST 'CAUSE YOU CAN USE A LITTLE MAGIC, YOU'RE GONNA ACT LIKE OUR LEADER?!

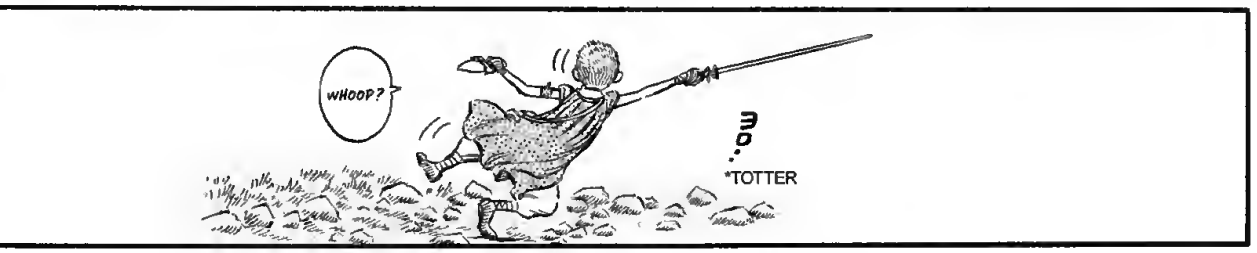

WHEN IT COMES TO TROLLS, A WITCH IS A SPECIALIST...
SHE HAS A POINT.
...
WELL,
FINE BY ME. THE BRUTE SLAYIN' WAS HER JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE.
...
DESERTION MEANS THE FIRIN' SQUAD, SUB-PRIVATE MONKICH!!
GODDAMN SONUVA BITCH!
*FX. DASH
*FX: WHAM
*FX: SALUTE!
SUB-PRIVATE!
SALUTE YOUR C.O.!
*COLONEL
*TAK
WHAT IS HIS PROBLEM?
HE WANTED SOME SAY IN THIS.
...
*HO HO HO HO
MY, MY...

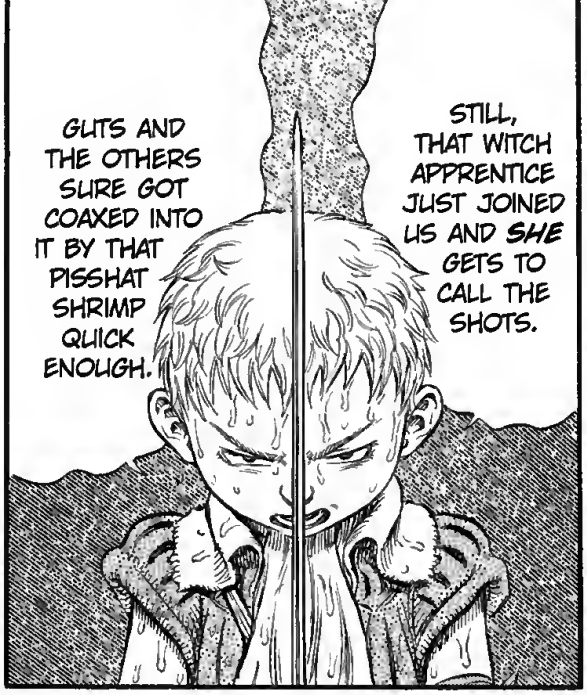


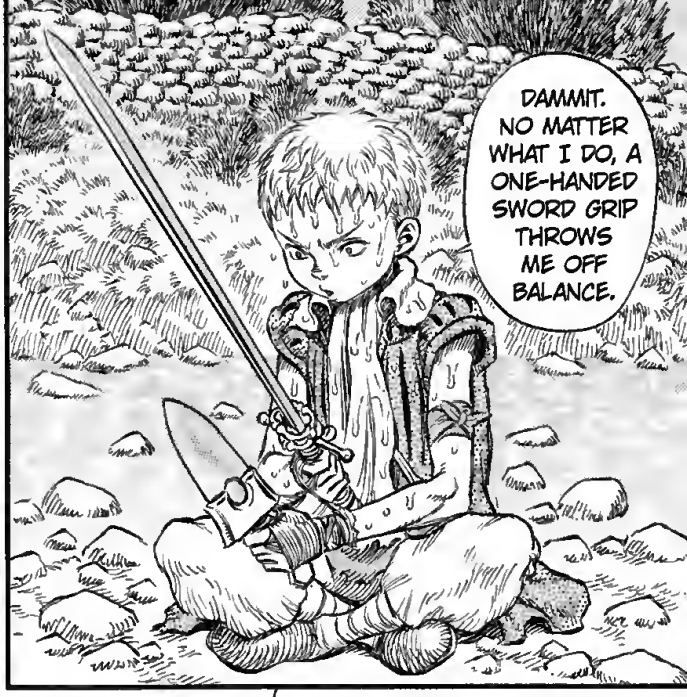


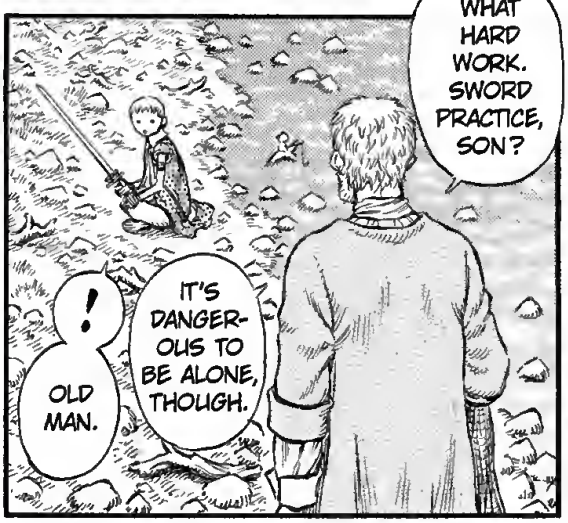
*FX: SHNN

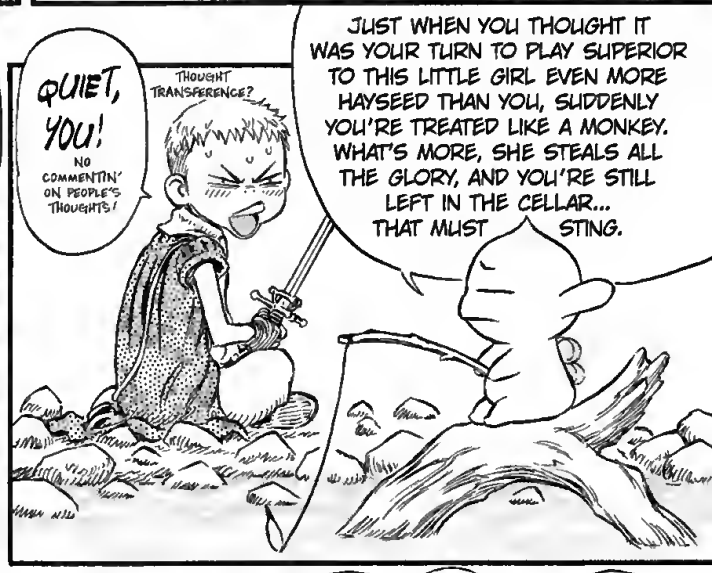


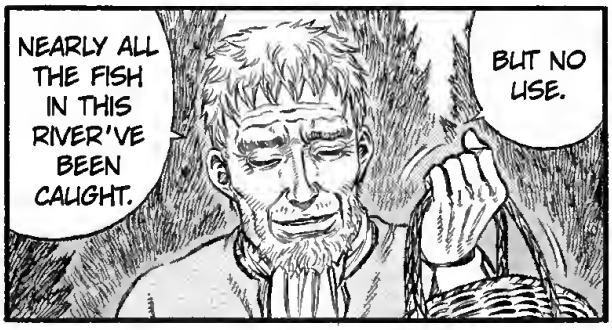



GUTS AND THE OTHERS SURE GOT COAXED INTO IT BY THAT PISSHAT SHRIMP QUICK ENOUGH.
STILL, THAT WITH APPRENTICE JUST JOINED US AND SHE GETS TO CALL THE SHOTS.

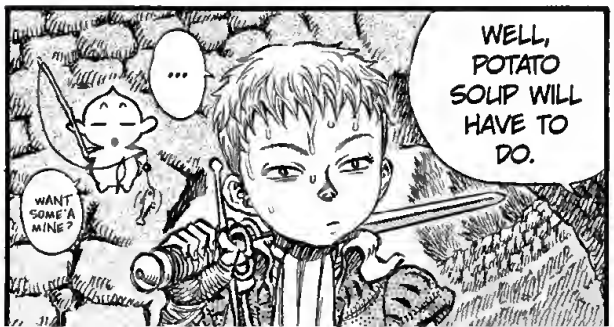

DAMMIT. NO MATTER WHAT I DO, A ONE-HANDED SWORD GRIP THROWS ME OFF BALANCE.


WHAT HARD WORK. SWORD PRACTICE, SON?
IT'S DANGER-OUS TO BE ALONE, THOUGH.
!
OLD MAN.

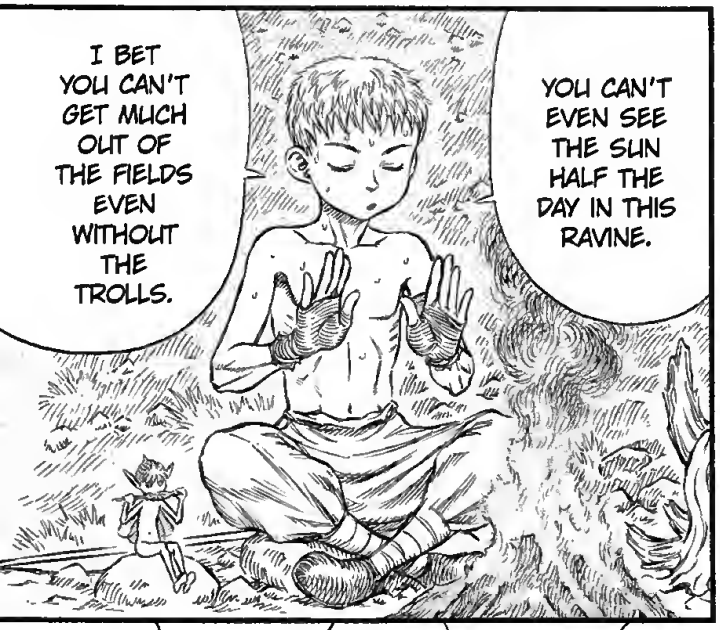

QUIET, YOU!
NO COMMENTIN' ON PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS!
THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE?
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR TURN TO PLAY SUPERIOR TO THIS LITTLE GIRL EVEN MORE HAYSEED THAN YOU, SUDDENLY YOU'RE TREATED LIKE A MONKEY. WHAT'S MORE, SHE STEALS ALL THE GLORY, AND YOU'RE STILL LEFT IN THE CELLAR... THAT MUST STING.

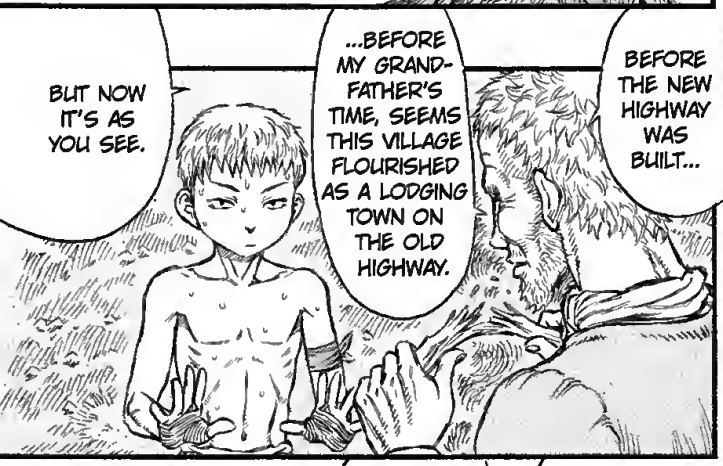

NEARLY ALL THE FISH IN THIS RIVER'VE BEEN CAUGHT.
BUT NO USE.

I THOUGHT I'D GET SOME FISH FOR YOU ALL'S DINNER ...
HMMM.
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', THEN?

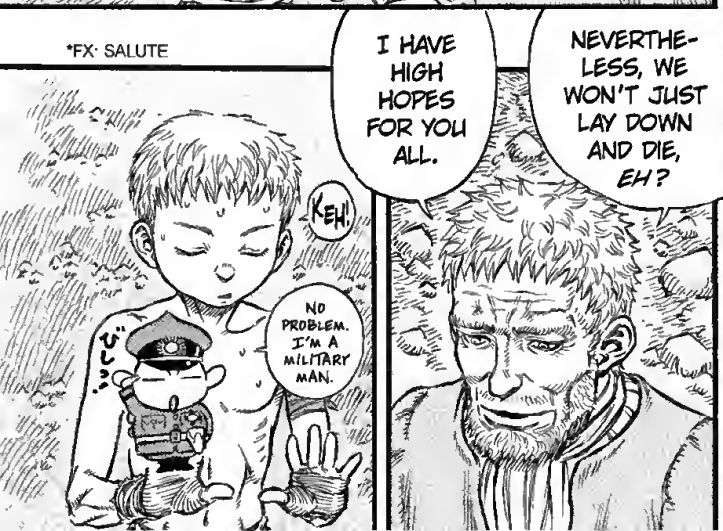

WELL, POTATO SOUP WILL HAVE TO DO.
...
WANT SOME'A MINE?

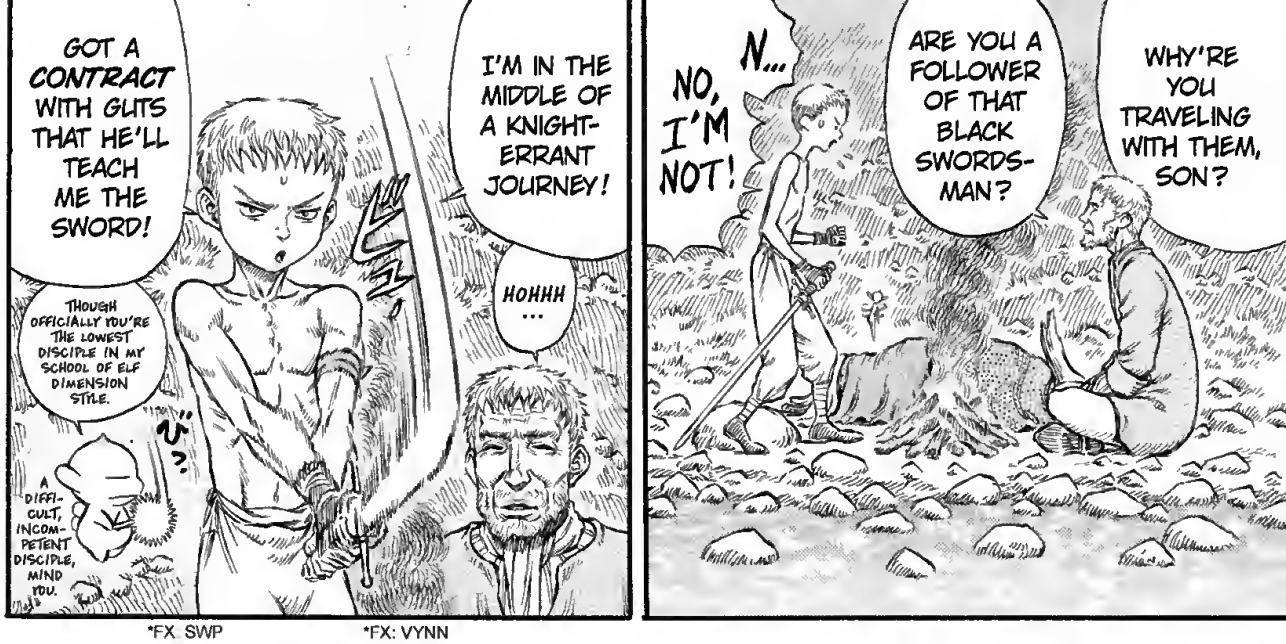
*FX. SNAP

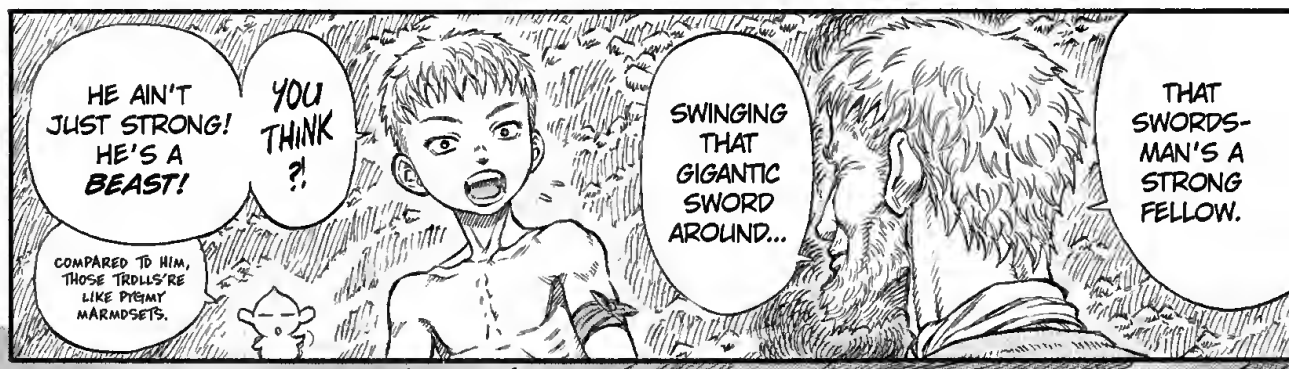




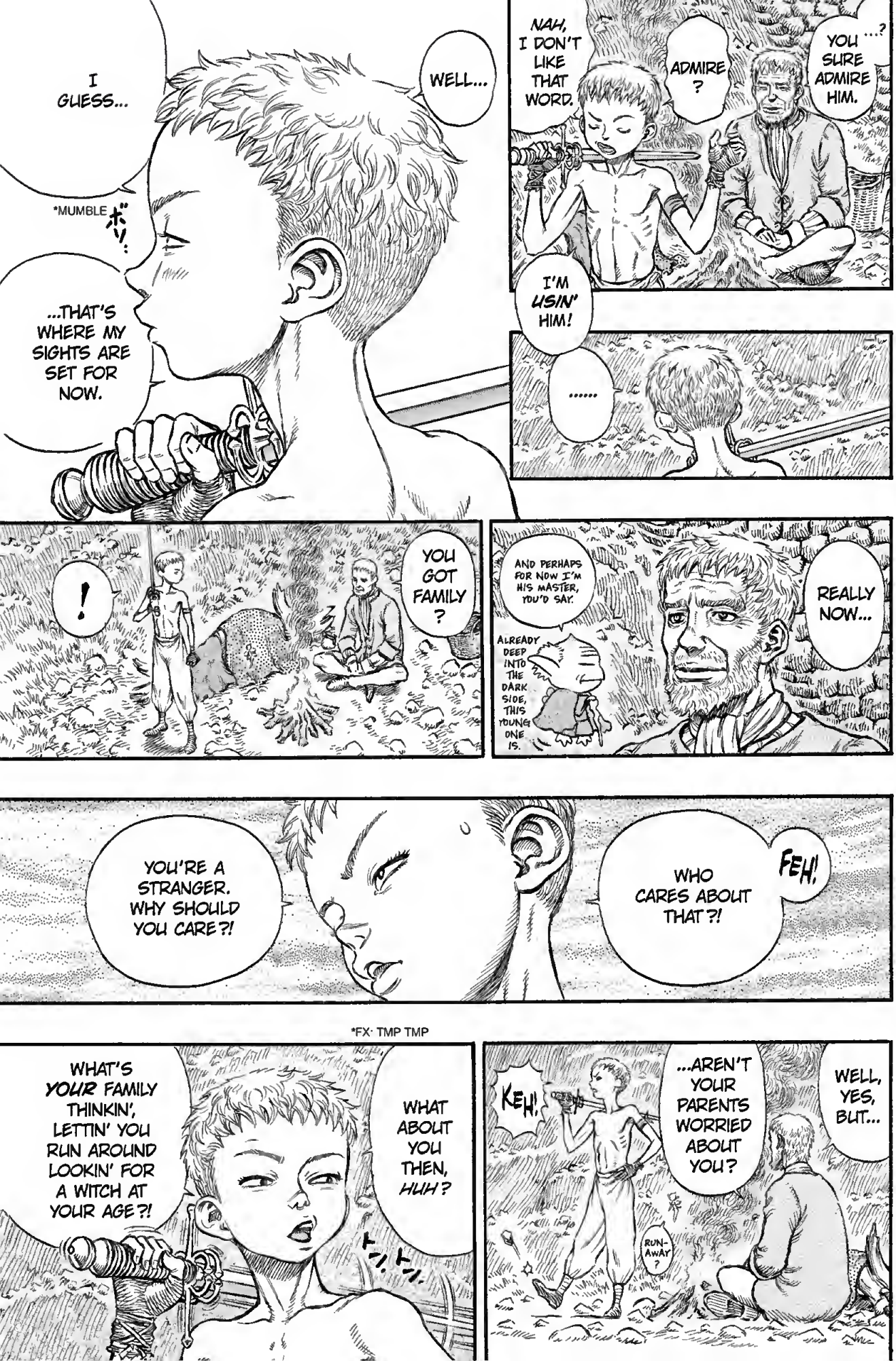
*FX· SALUTE

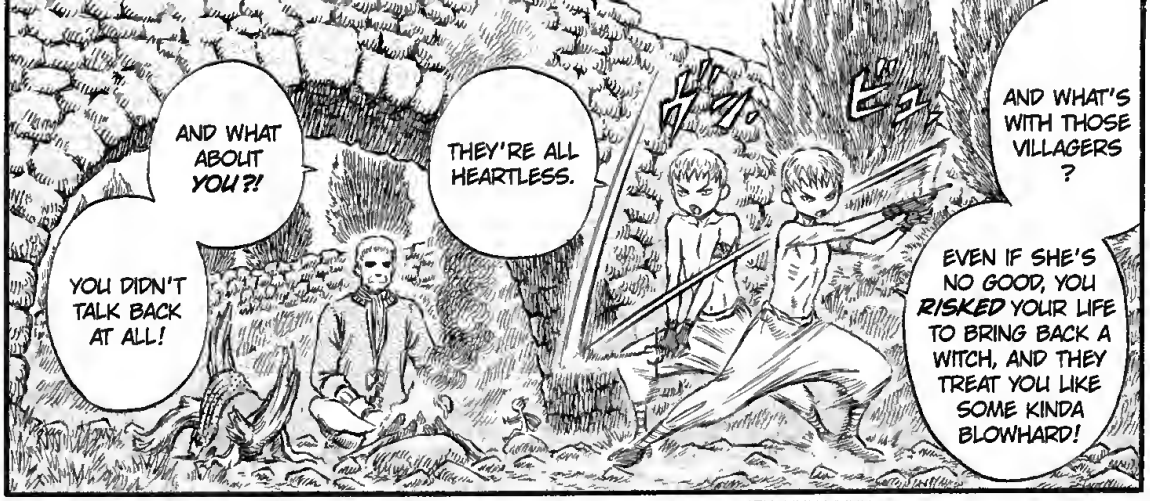



I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A KNIGHT-ERRANT JOURNEY!
GOT A CONTRACT WITH GUTS THAT HE'LL TEACH ME THE SWORD!
HOHHH...
THOUGH OFFICIALLY YOU'RE THE LOWEST DISCIPLE IN MY SCHOOL OF ELF DIMENSION STYLE.
A DIFFICULT, INCOMPETENT DISCIPLE, MIND YOU.
*FX: SWP
N...
NO, I'M NOT!
ARE YOU A FOLLOWER OF THAT BLACK SWORDSMAN?
WHY'RE YOU TRAVELING WITH THEM, SON?
*FX: VYNN

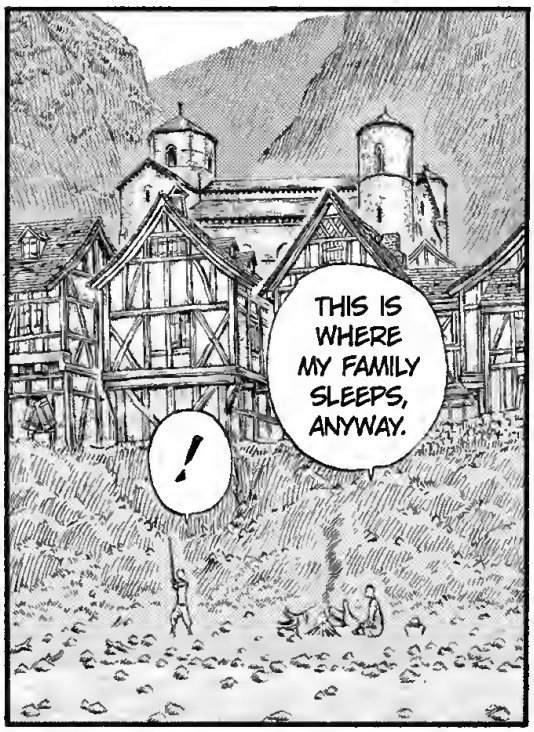

HE AIN'T JUST STRONG! HE'S A BEAST!
YOU THINK?!
COMPARED TO HIM, THOSE TROLLS'RE LIKE PYGMY MARMOSETS.
SWINGING THAT GIGANTIC SWORD AROUND...
THAT SWORDSMAN'S A STRONG FELLOW.

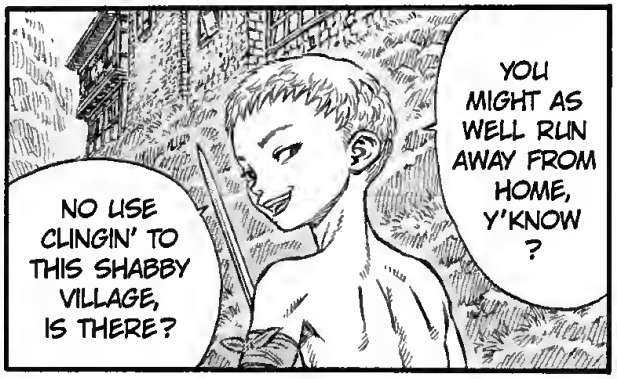
ACTUALLY, I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO'S THE REAL BEAST.
EVEN NOW I GET CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE WHEN I WATCH HIM FIGHT UNDER THE MOONLIGHT.
HE'S A MONSTER THAT EATS MONSTERS.


I GUESS...
WELL...
*MUMBLE ボソ
...THAT'S WHERE MY SIGHTS ARE SET FOR NOW.
NAH, I DON'T LIKE THAT WORD.
ADMIRE ?
YOU SURE ...? ADMIRE HIM.
I'M USIN' HIM!
.....
!
YOU GOT FAMILY ?
AND PERHAPS FOR NOW I'M HIS MASTER, YOU'D SAY.
ALREADY DEEP INTO THE DARK SIDE, THIS YOUNG ONE IS.
REALLY NOW...
YOU'RE A STRANGER. WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?!
FEH!
*FX: TMP TMP
WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY THINKIN', LETTIN' YOU RUN AROUND LOOKIN' FOR A WITCH AT YOUR AGE?!
WHAT ABOUT YOU THEN, HUH?
トン! トン!
KEH!
...AREN'T YOUR PARENTS WORRIED ABOUT YOU?
RUN-AWAY ?
WELL, YES, BUT...

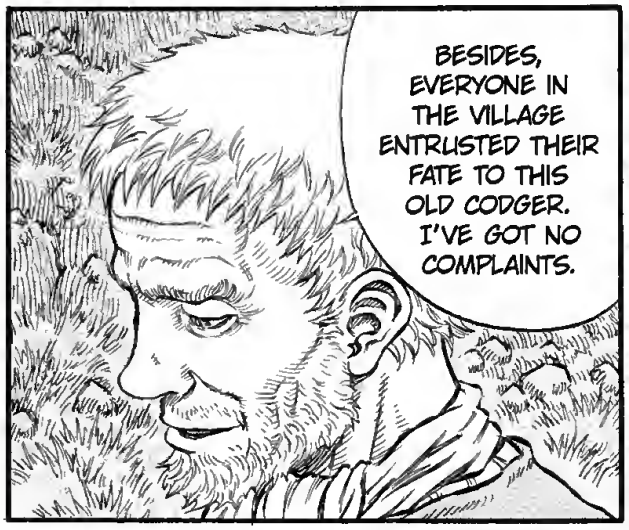


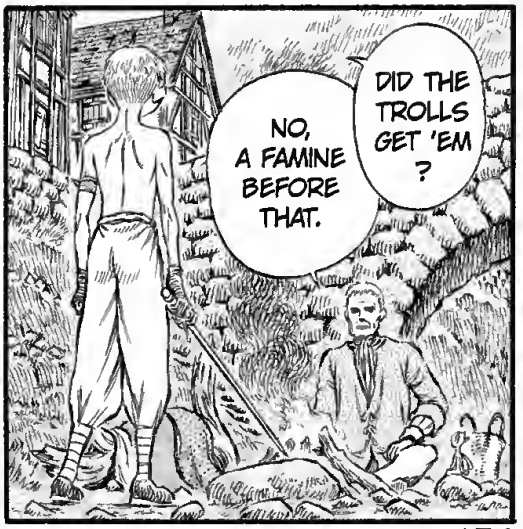
*FX. VNN VYNN



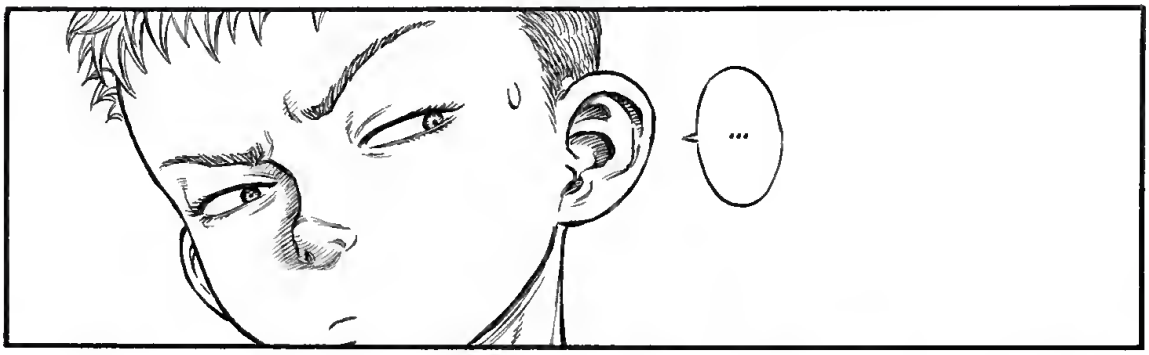


*FX. HEH HEH HEH



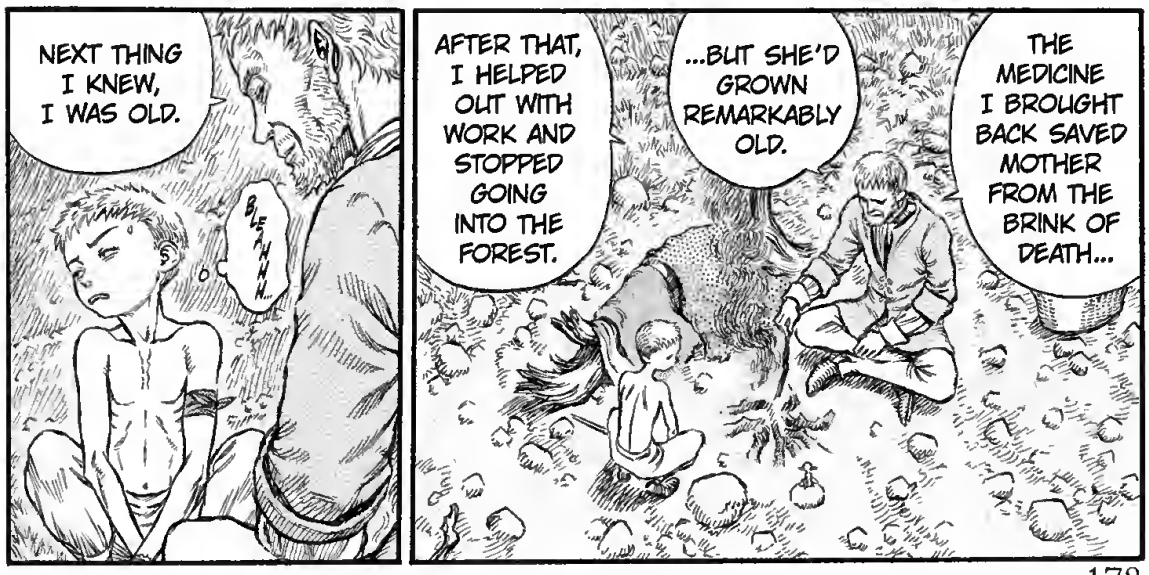


...ONE MORE TIME BEFORE I DIE.
I GOT TO SEE HER...
DREAM ?
RATHER, I'M THANKFUL. I MEAN, HERE I AM THIS AGE AND MY DREAM WAS FULFILLED.
.....
LOOKING FOR WITCHES, CATCHING ELVES... I'D DITCH MY CHORES AND RUN AROUND THE MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
IT'S PROBABLY TRUE FOR ALL BOYS, BUT WHEN I WAS YOUNG I LOVED TO DAYDREAM.
...AND SET SAIL ALONE ON THE HIGH SEA FROM VRITANNIS...
LIKE YOU SAID, I IMAGINED THAT SOME DAY I'D SNEAK AWAY FROM THIS TINY VILLAGE...
...MY MOTHER FELL ILL.
...UNTIL...


...

I HAD PROBABLY GONE THERE TO FIND A WITCH TO SAVE MOTHER FROM HER ILLNESS.
I DON'T WELL REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THEN, BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT I WAS WANDERING AROUND DEEP IN THE FOREST.

...I ARRIVED AT THAT PLACE.
THEN, HALF IN A DREAM...


NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS OLD.
BLEHHH...
AFTER THAT, I HELPED OUT WITH WORK AND STOPPED GOING INTO THE FOREST.
...BUT SHE'D GROWN REMARKABLY OLD.
THE MEDICINE I BROUGHT BACK SAVED MOTHER FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH...

A LONG TIME'S PASSED, AND AFTER SO MUCH NORMAL LIVING, MY MEMORY'S GROWN VAGUE.
BUT IT ALWAYS STAYED STUCK IN MY HEART.
THE ONE ADVENTURE I HAD.
WHETHER OR NOT IT REALLY HAPPENED...
SHE WAITED FOR ME, THOUGH.
DEEP INSIDE THAT FOREST...
UNCHANGED, AS SHE USED TO BE...
THAT ALONE WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
*FX: LUNGE
RAHH!!!
ENOUGH WITH THE CRAPPY STORY!!
DON'T TALK ABOUT THE GOOD OL' DEPRESSIN' DAYS!!
NOW'S A TIME FOR THE YOUNG!!
*SHWS
*SHWS
GOOD GRIEF, KIDS THESE DAYS.
YOU GREW ANCIENT IN THIS RUSTIC LITTLE VILLAGE HOLDIN' ON TO YOUR PRETTY LITTLE DREAM!!
DON'T LUMP YOURSELF WITH ME WHEN I'M CARRYIN' OUT MY GOALS!!

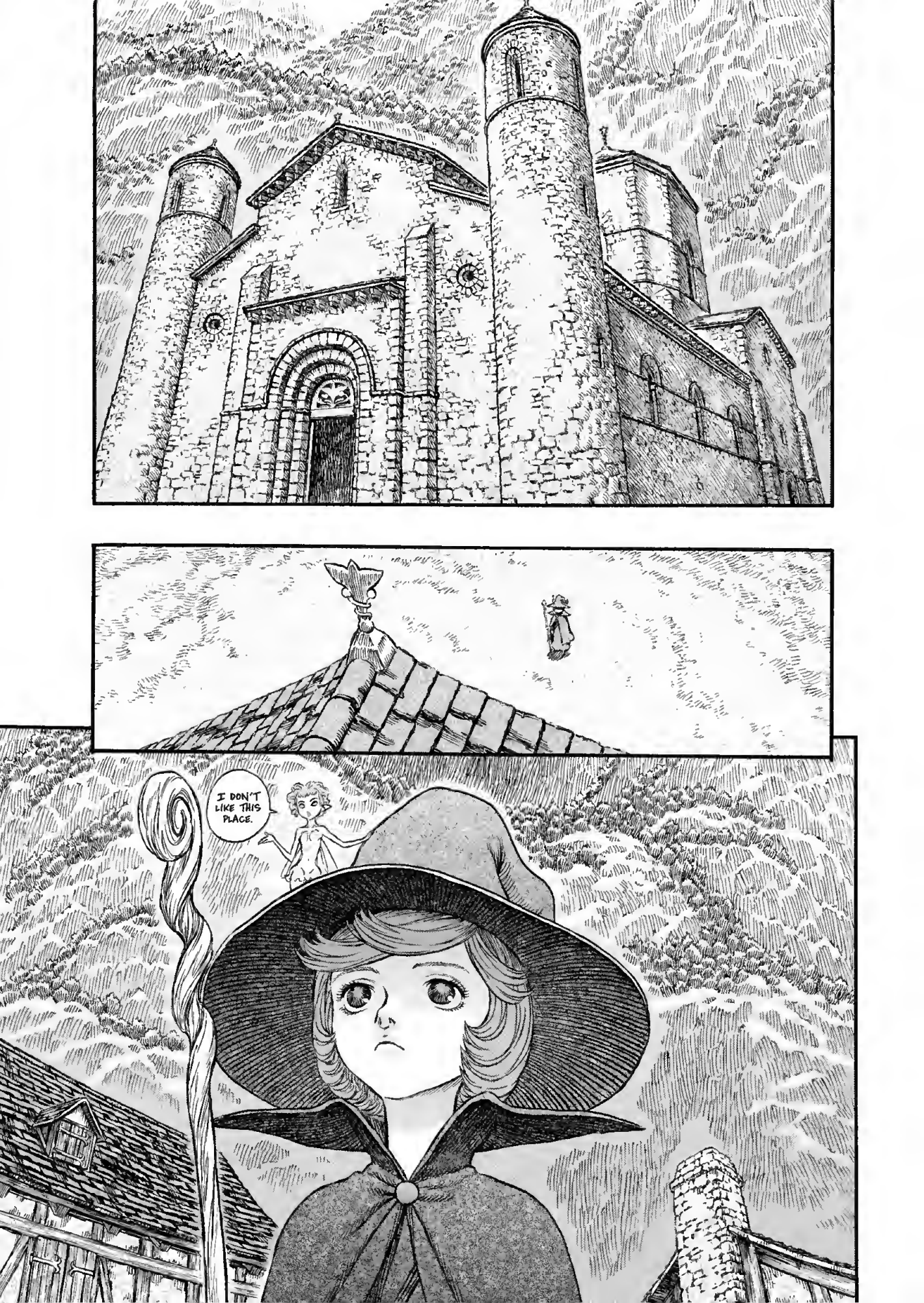
IF I GOTTA LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF YOUR STORIES, MY OWN AMBITION'S GONNA GROW MOLD!
SEE YA!
TEEN ANGST.
*BOLT

.....

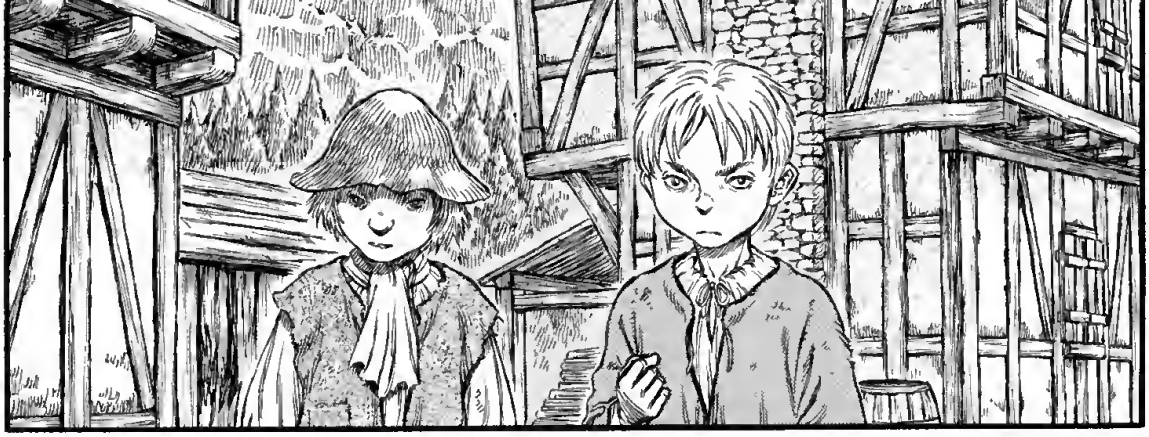
.....

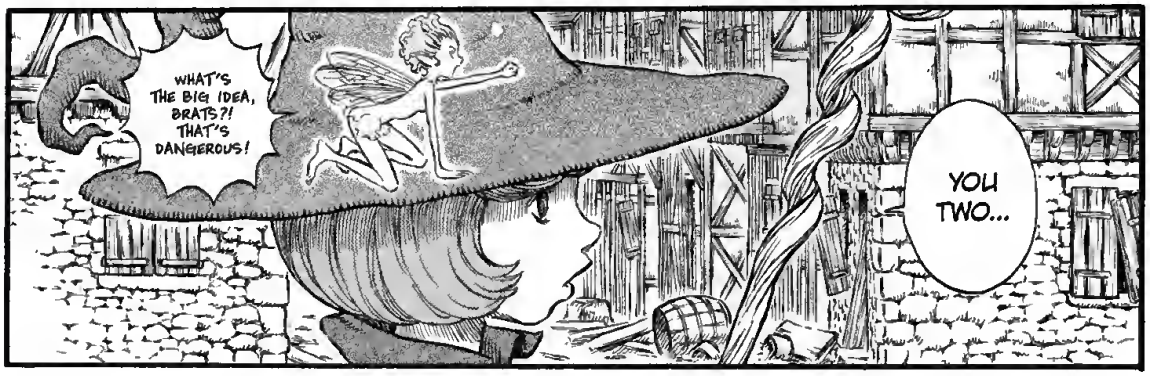
THAT BOY...
HE SEEMS TO HAVE QUITE A HIGH OPINION OF YOU.

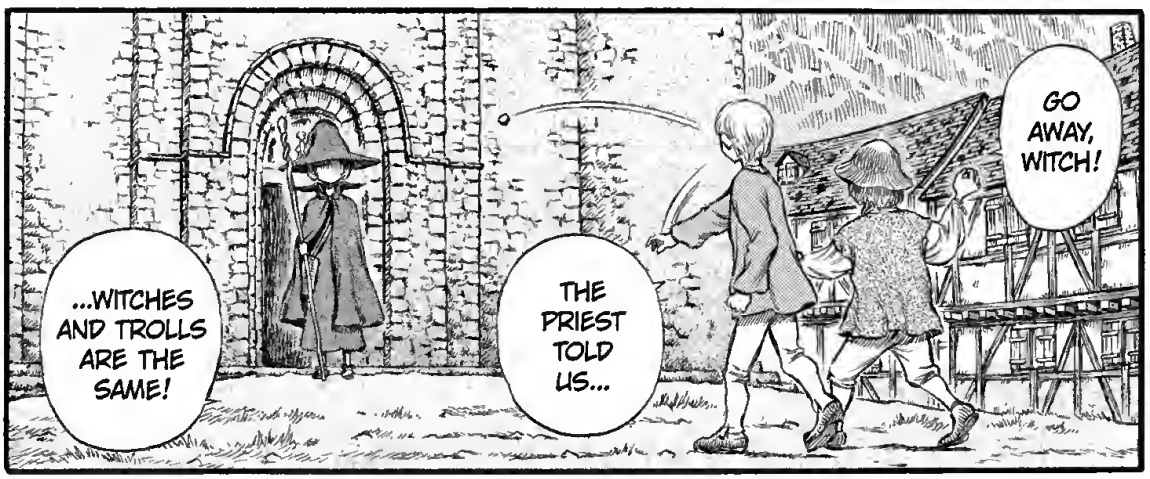
OH.
YOU WERE THERE.


I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE.

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE TO SET UP.
SO YEAH...
...IF THE VILLAGERS HOLD UP, IT WILL PROBABLY BE HERE.
WHEN THE TROLLS ATTACK...
...I HAVE TO STAY LEVEL HEADED ABOUT THIS.
ANYWAY...
YOW!
ボス
*BSMP
...THE CHURCH WAS BUILT...
...THIS PLACE WHERE ...
BUT...




WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, BRATS?! THAT'S DANGEROUS!
YOU TWO...


...WITCHES AND TROLLS ARE THE SAME!
THE PRIEST TOLD US...
GO AWAY, WITCH!

*FX: GCHAK

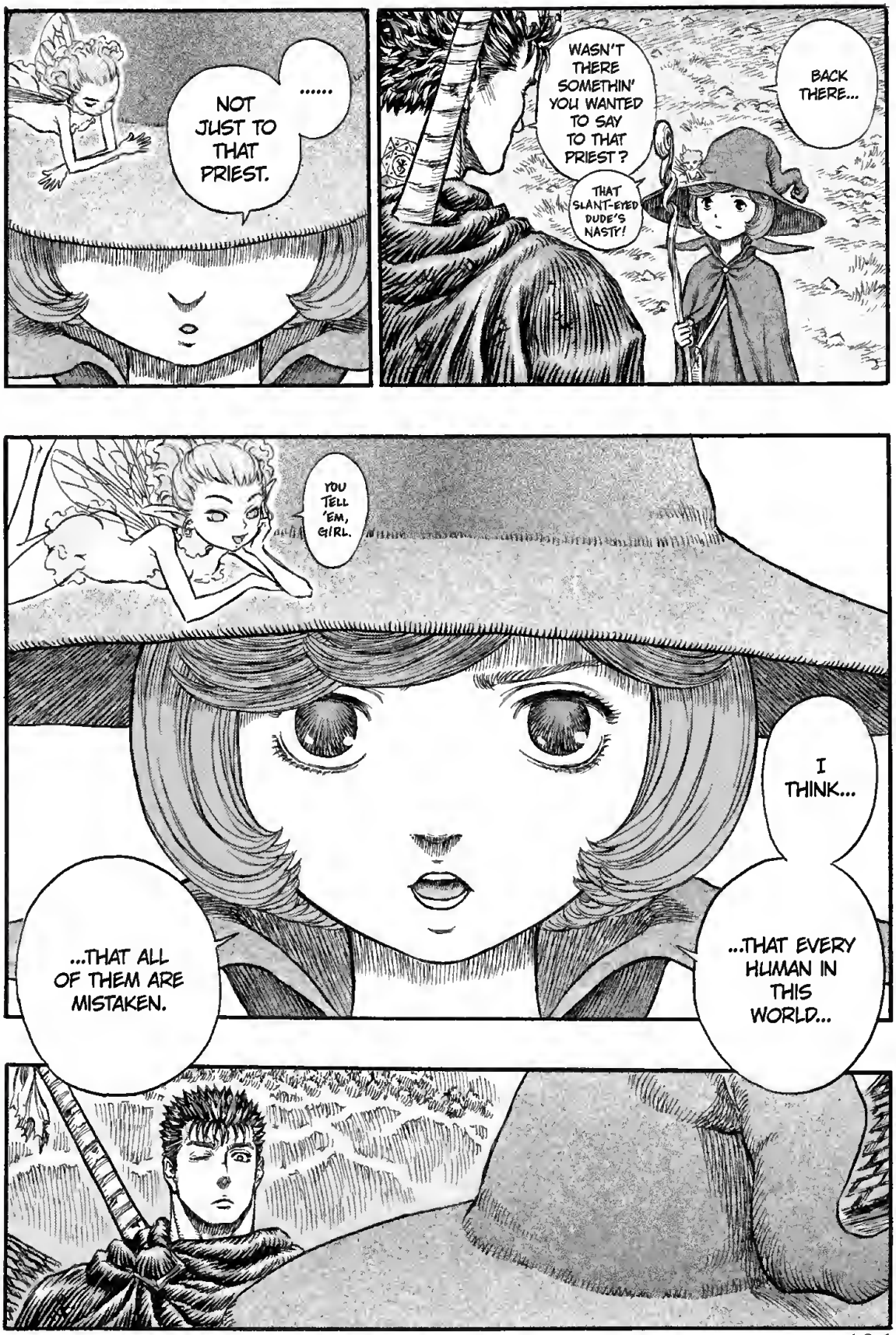
!

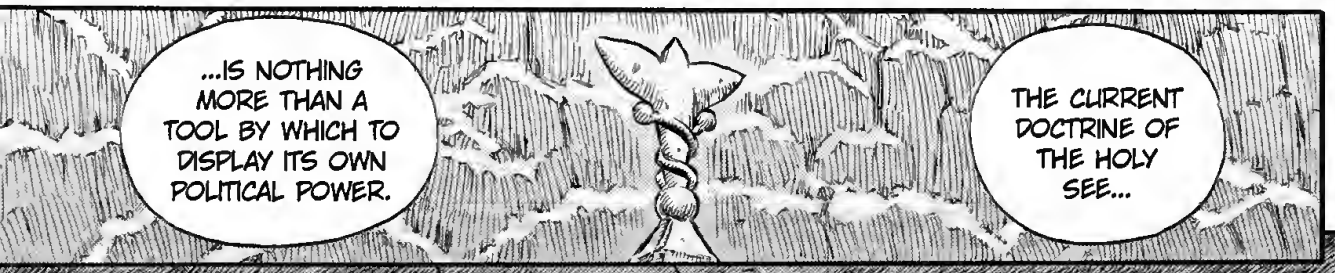
HEY, SCHIERKE! BLOW 'EM AWAY WITH MAGIC!
*THP
GO BACK TO THE FOREST!
*THAP

INSPECTING THE AREA?

NICE TIMING, THANKS!
.....

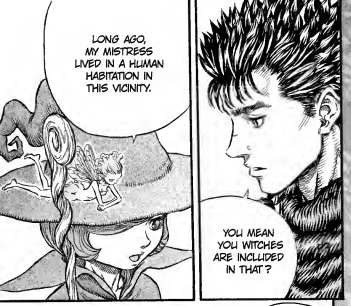
THE WHOLE PLACE'S BEEN RANSACKED GOOD.
WELL ...
...NO WORSE THAN AN ARMY. THEY DIDN'T RAZE THE PLACE.
*FX BOW
...AT THE CEMETERY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BEING A QUICK WIT...
UH...
HOW-EVER ...
SHE'S SO HONEST.
...I THINK LYING SO CASUALLY TO GET INTO...
...THE VILLAGE COULD COME BACK TO HAUNT US.
I'D SAY THE OLD LADY TRAINED HER WELL.


.....
NOT JUST TO THAT PRIEST.
BACK THERE...
WASN'T THERE SOMETHIN' YOU WANTED TO SAY TO THAT PRIEST?
THAT SLANT-EYED DUDE'S NASTY!
YOU TELL 'EM, GIRL.
I THINK...
...THAT EVERY HUMAN IN THIS WORLD...
...THAT ALL OF THEM ARE MISTAKEN.

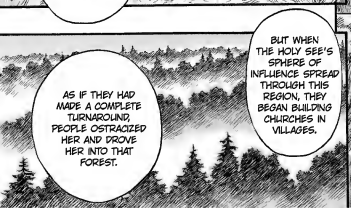


FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

TROLL RAID
トロール
獣鬼襲来


LONG AGO, MY MISTRESS LIVED IN A HUMAN HABITATION IN THIS VICINITY.
YOU MEAN YOU WITCHES ARE INCLUDED IN THAT?

SHE SAYS SHE WOULD GO AROUND TO THE NEEDY VILLAGES...
...CONVEYING THE SPIRITS' VOICES TO PEOPLE. TEACHING ABOUT EACH SEASON'S WEATHER, AND HEALING THEIR SICK.
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE SAVED BY MY MISTRESS' MAGIC?

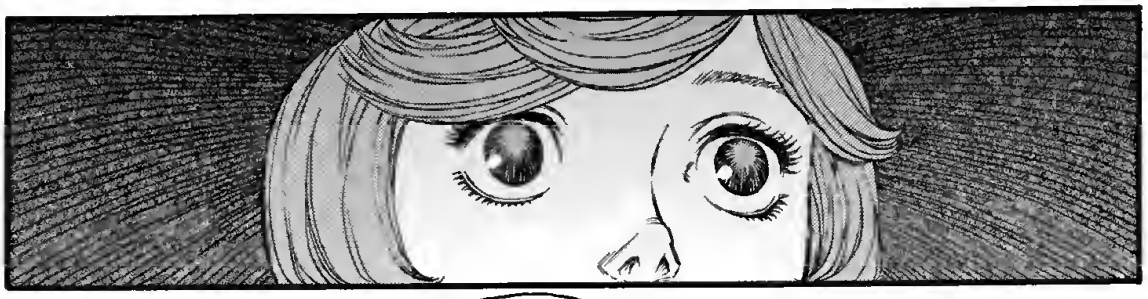

BUT WHEN THE HOLY SEE'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE SPREAD THROUGH THIS REGION, THEY BEGAN BUILDING CHURCHES IN VILLAGES.
AS IF THEY HAD MADE A COMPLETE TURNAROUND, PEOPLE OSTRACIZED HER AND DROVE HER INTO THAT FOREST.

...IN THE VERY ONES THEY ARE TRYING TO FORGET.

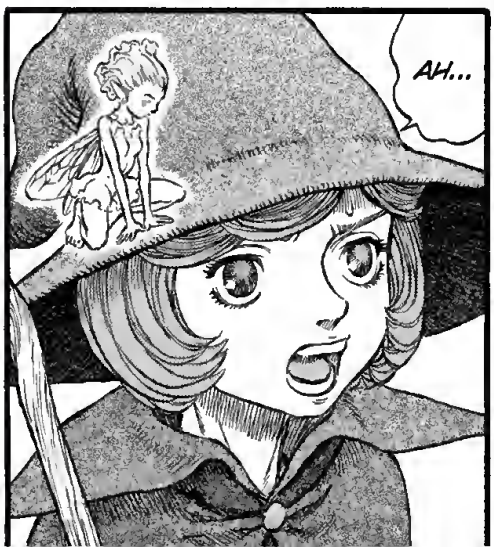
WHEN THE KEY THAT SAVES THEM MAY BE HIDDEN...

SINCE THEN MY MISTRESS HAS LIVED THERE...
...AS IF AVOIDING PEOPLE'S EYES AND HIDING.
AND NOW...
...ALMOST AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED...
I CANNOT FORGIVE THEM.
IF NOT FOR MY MISTRESS' COMMAND, WHO WOULD BOTHER WITH SUCH A PLACE?

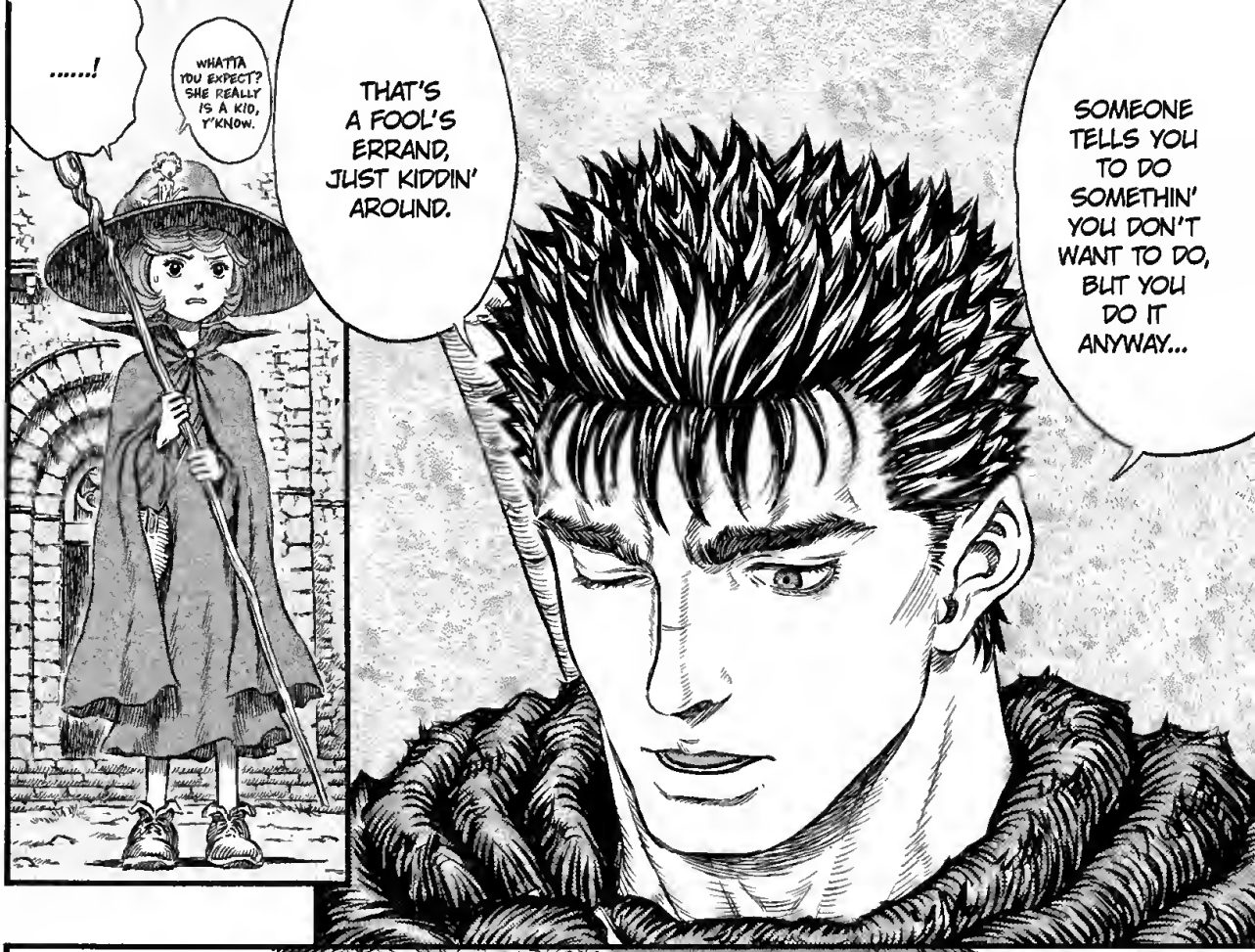
THEN CALL IT QUITS.

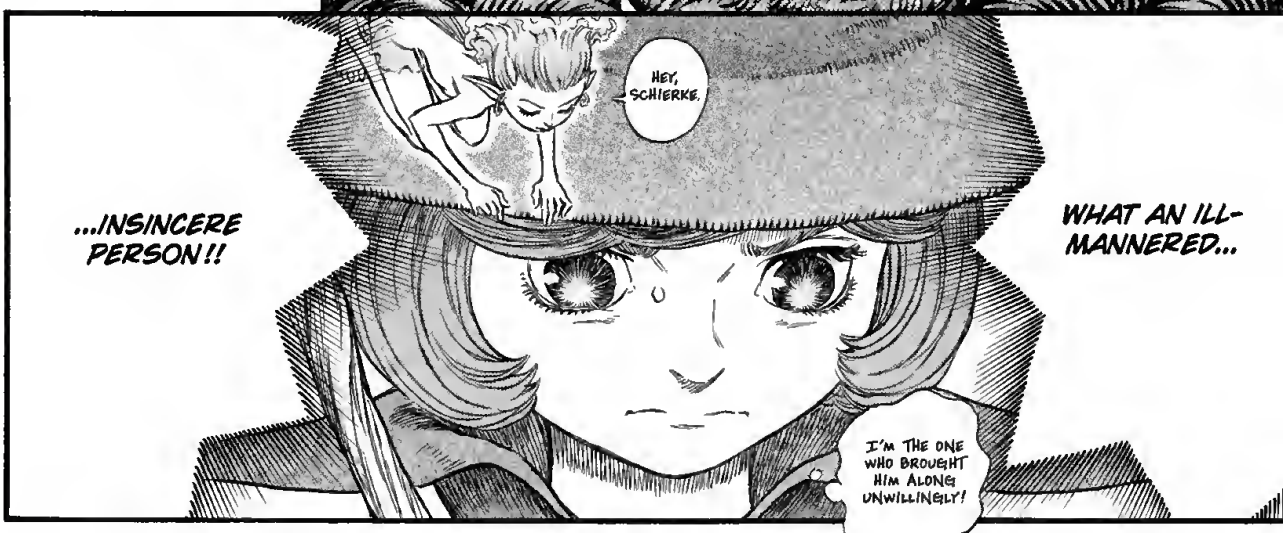


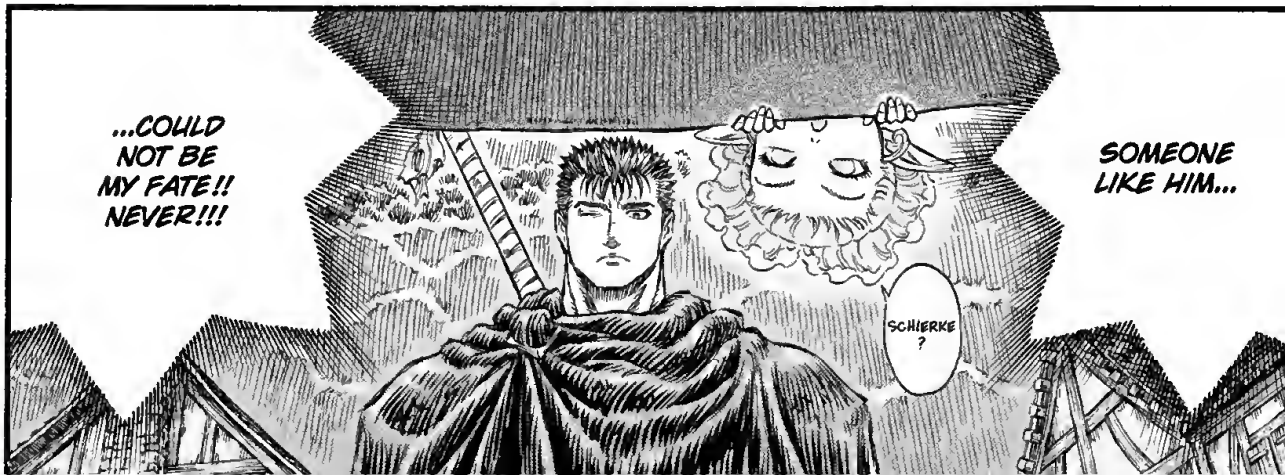
WHA...?
...THERE'S NO NEED TO ENDANGER YOURSELF FOR THAT NASTY BUNCH.
IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT...

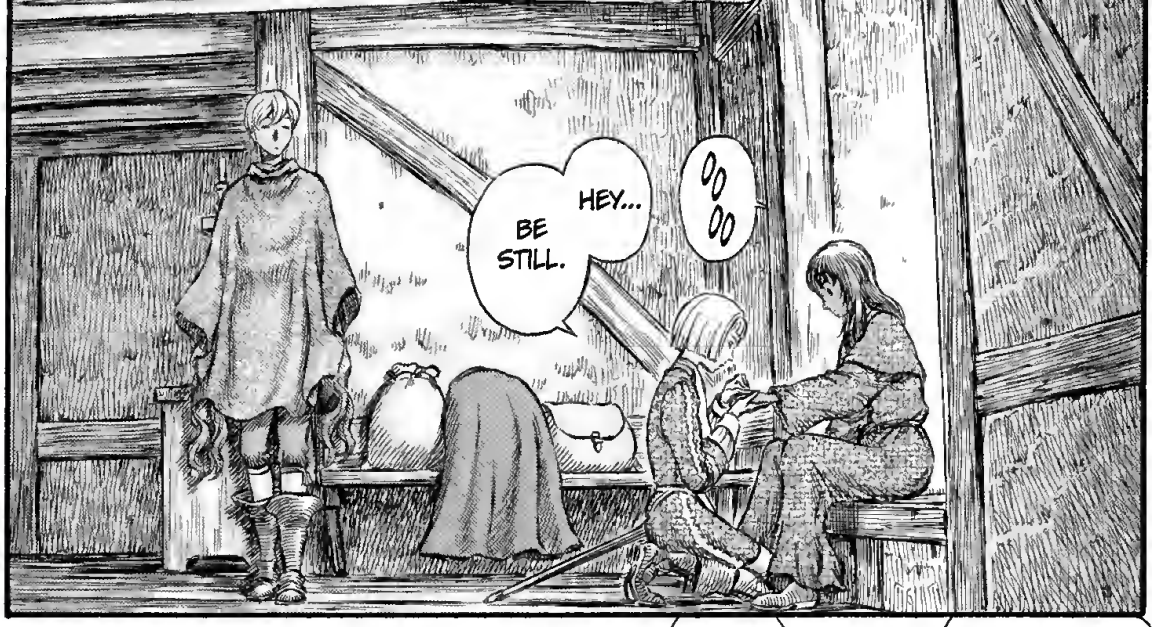

AH...

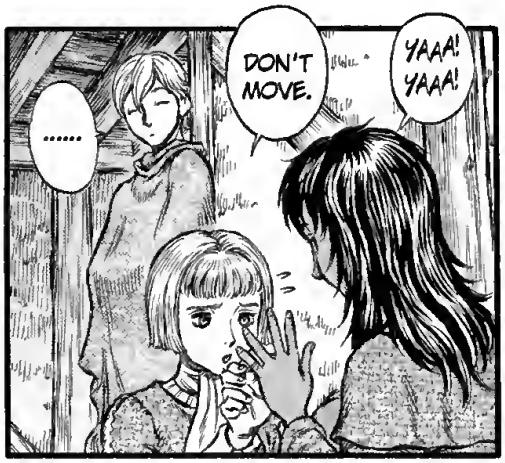
ALL THE MORE REASON.
THAT OLD LADY'S GONNA DIE SOON, TOO.

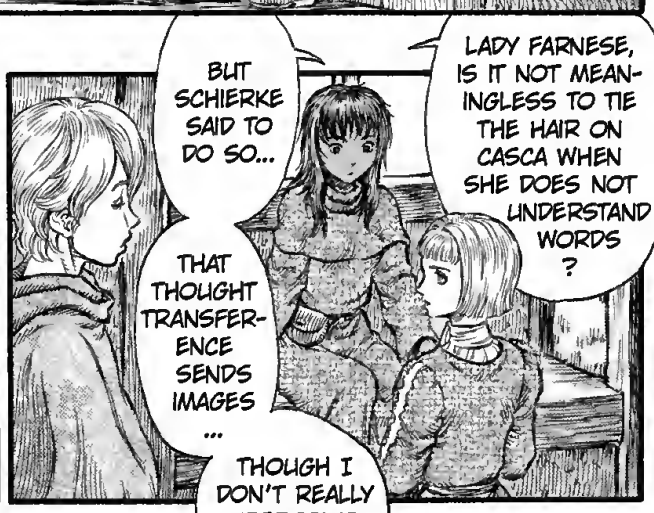

.....!
WHATTA YOU EXPECT? SHE REALLY IS A KID, Y'KNOW.
THAT'S A FOOL'S ERRAND, JUST KIDDIN' AROUND.
SOMEONE TELLS YOU TO DO SOMETHIN' YOU DON'T WANT TO DO, BUT YOU DO IT ANYWAY...


HEY, SCHIERKE.
...INSINCERE PERSON!!
WHAT AN ILL-MANNERED...
I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT HIM ALONG UNWILLINGLY!


...COULD NOT BE MY FATE!! NEVER!!!
SOMEONE LIKE HIM...
SCHIERKE ?

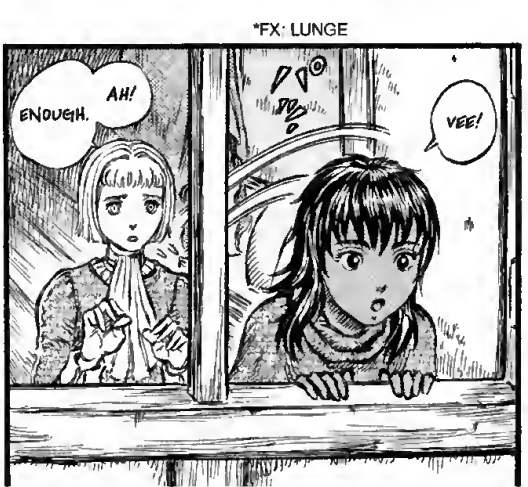

HEY...
BE STILL.
OOO

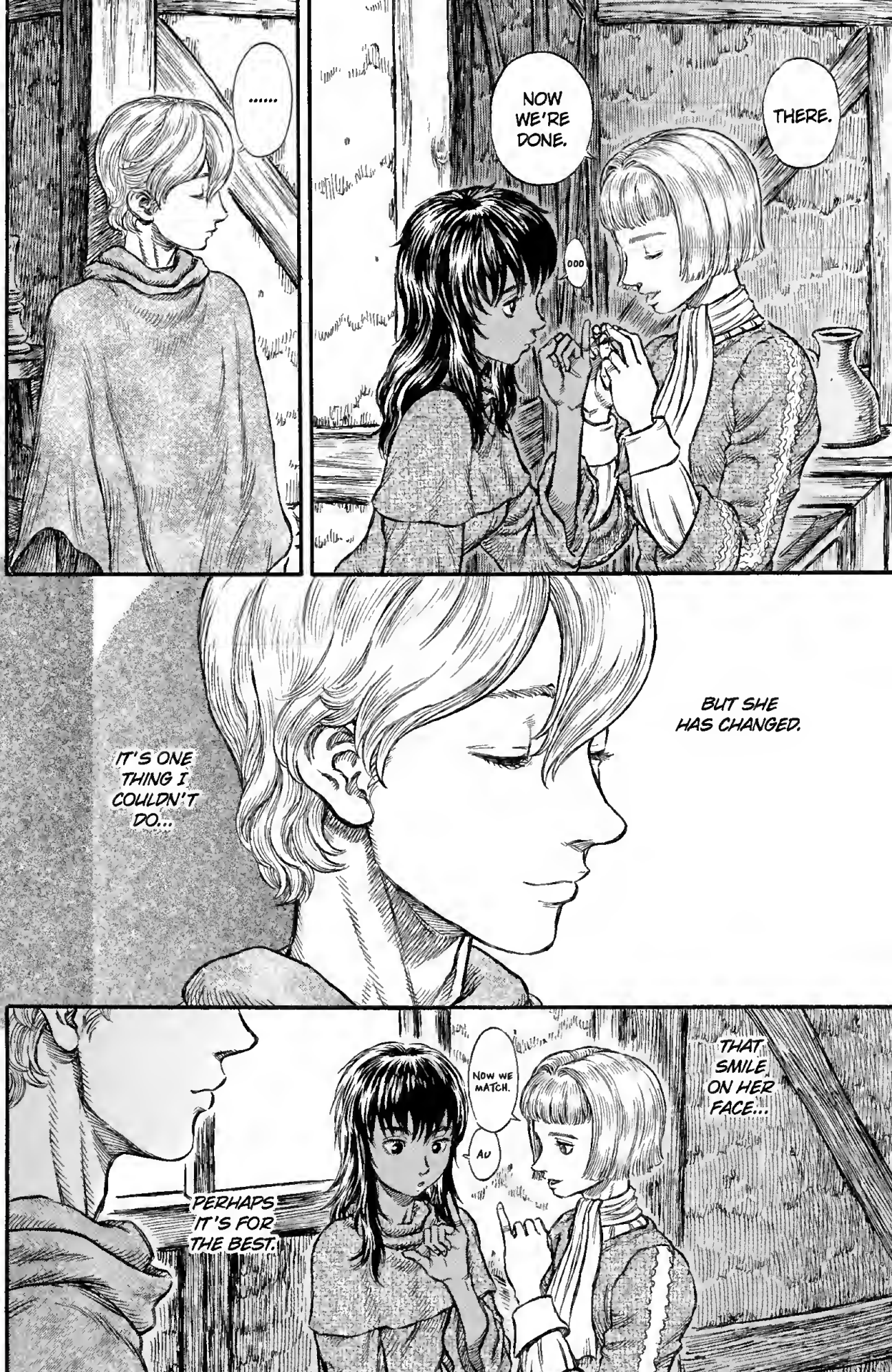

.....
DON'T MOVE.
YAAA! YAAA!

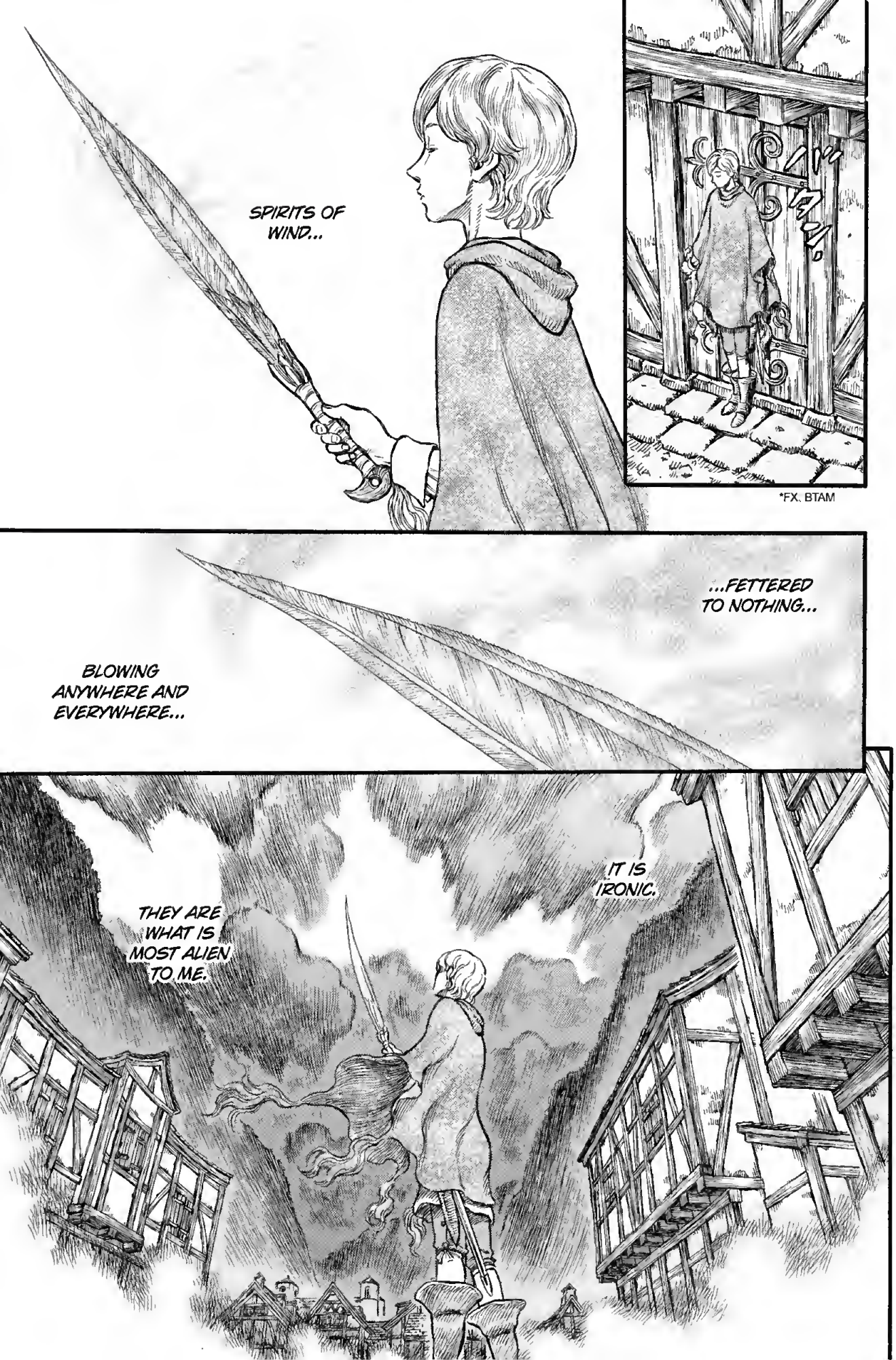

LADY FARNESE, IS IT NOT MEANINGLESS TO TIE THE HAIR ON CASCA WHEN SHE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WORDS ?
BUT SCHIERKE SAID TO DO SO...
THAT THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE SENDS IMAGES ...
THOUGH I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND...

...NO, THIS WHOLE JOURNEY IN THE FIRST PLACE... EVEN NOW IS SOMETHING I REALLY SHOULD STOP...
TO BE HONEST, I THINK THIS TROLL SLAYING...

*FX: FLINCH
CASCA !!
ビク
*SMACK

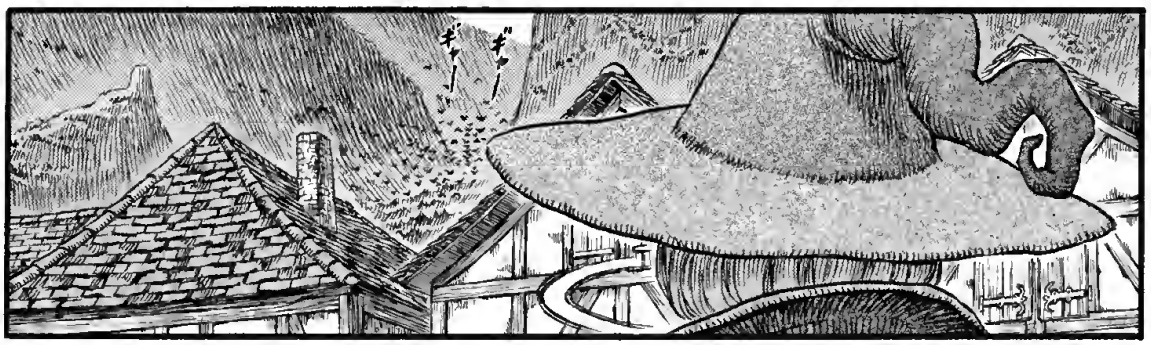

*FX: LUNGE
AH!
ENOUGH.
VEE!

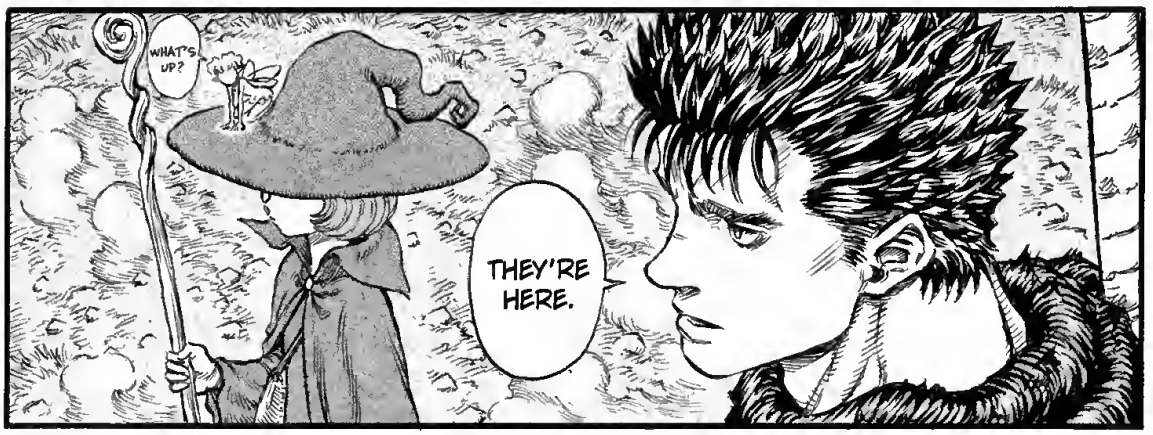

.....
NOW WE'RE DONE.
THERE.
ooo
BUT SHE HAS CHANGED.
IT'S ONE THING I COULDN'T DO...
THAT SMILE ON HER FACE...
NOW WE MATCH.
Au
PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST.

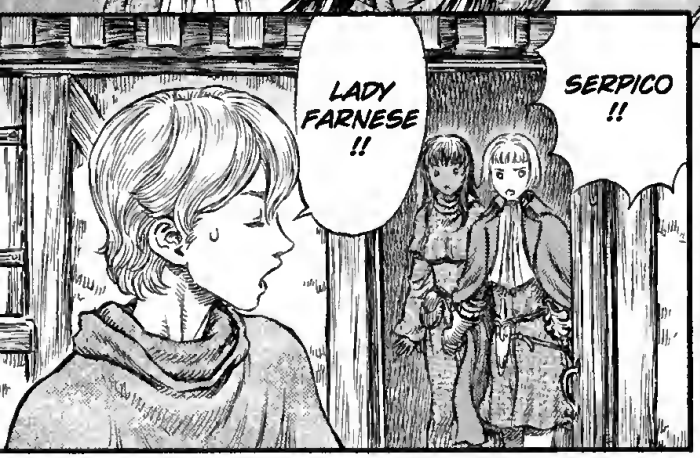

SPIRITS OF WIND...
*FX. BTAM
...FETTERED TO NOTHING...
BLOWING ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE...
IT IS IRONIC.
THEY ARE WHAT IS MOST ALIEN TO ME.

*FX: VYUUUUU

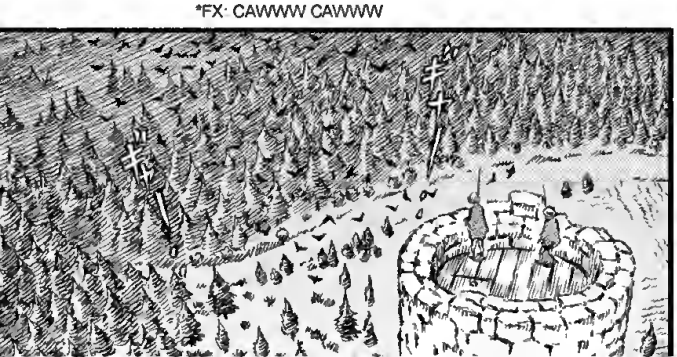
*FX: CAWWW CAWWW

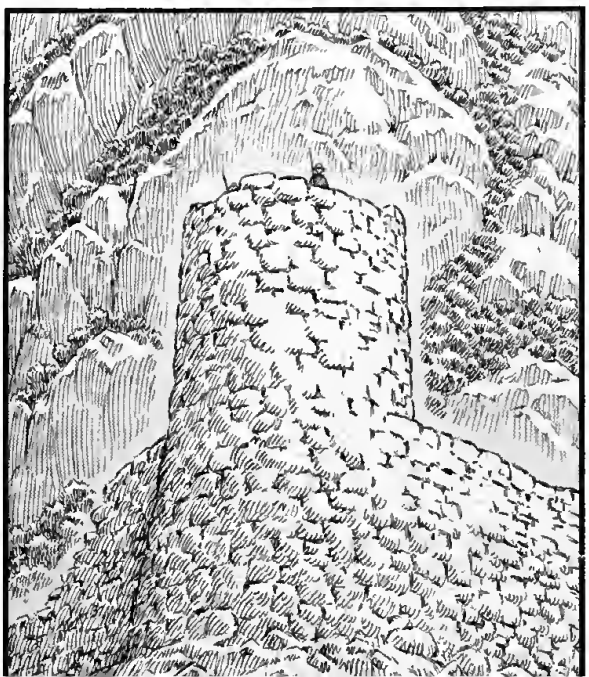


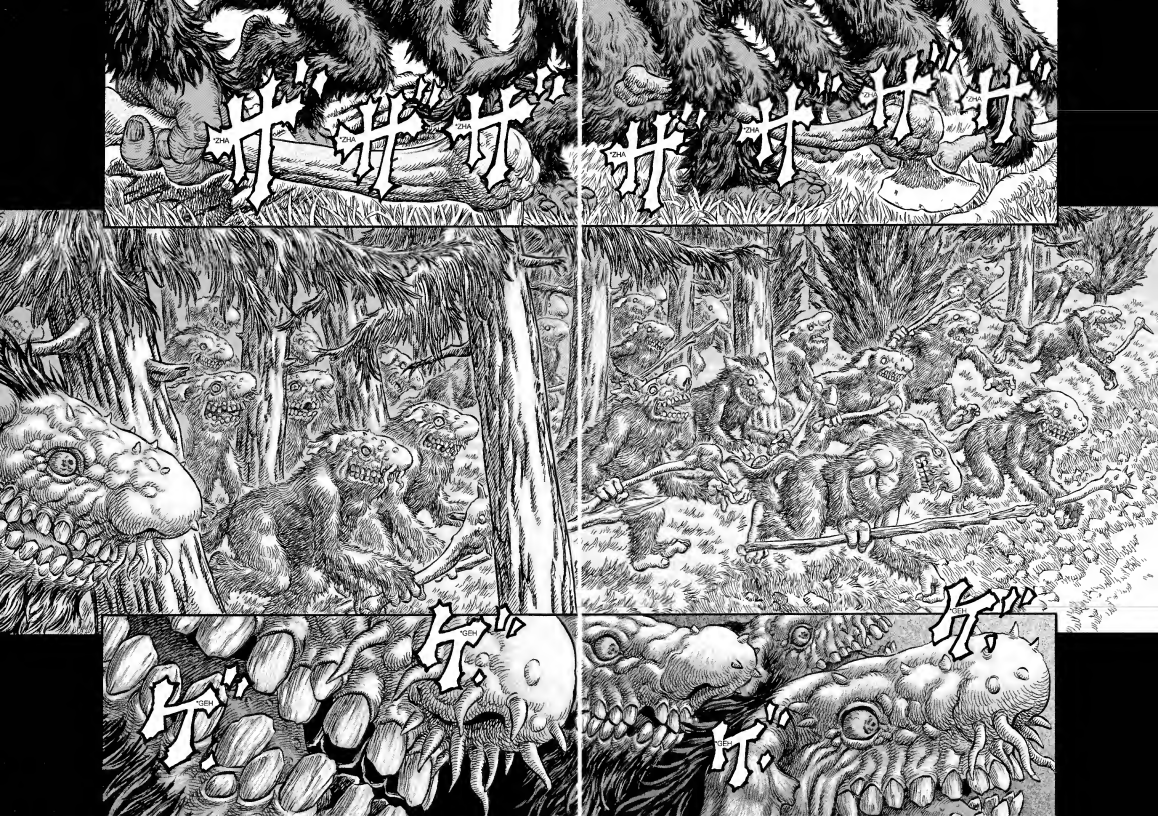




*FX: CAWWW CAWWW



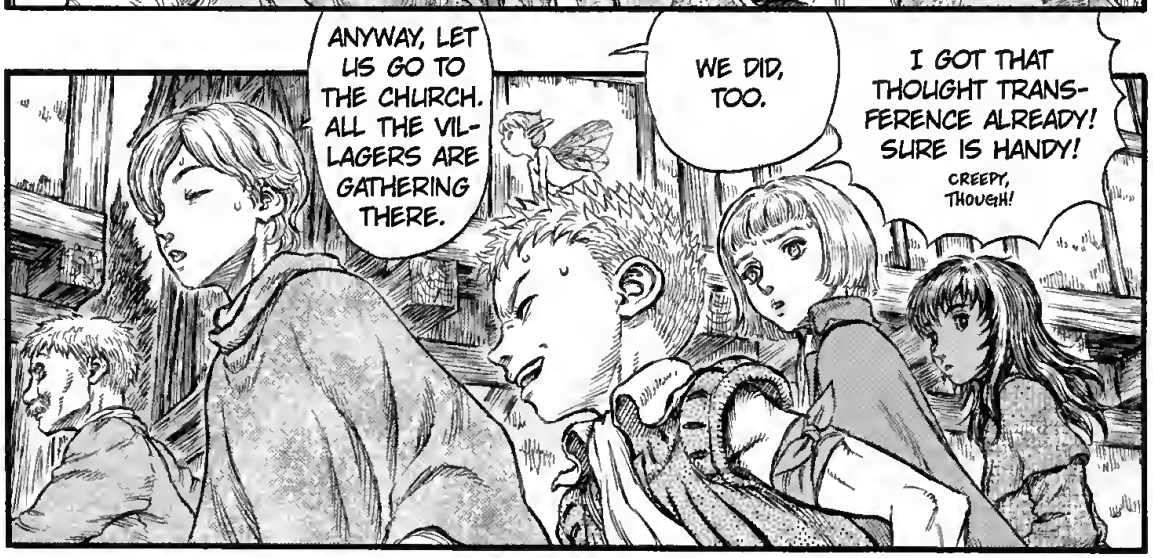



ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
GEN
GEN
GEN
GEN
GEN
GEN

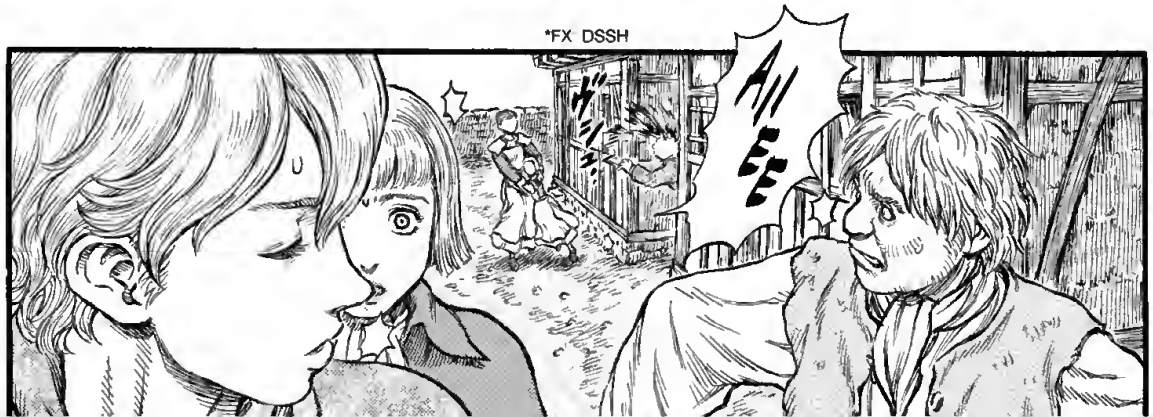
A HUNDRED... NO, MORE OF THOSE DAMN THINGS!!
WHAT'S WITH THESE NUMBERS ?!
TROLLS ...!!
OH, RIGHT ...!!
FIRST THE HORN !!
THEY'VE RUN OUT OF THINGS TO STEAL...
H-HEY!! IF WE DON'T FLEE SOON, WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!!
...SO THIS TIME THEY MEAN TO EAT EVERY-THING!!
*HRRRRRRN
ボォ
*HRRRRRRN
ボォ
*HRRRRRRN
ボォ

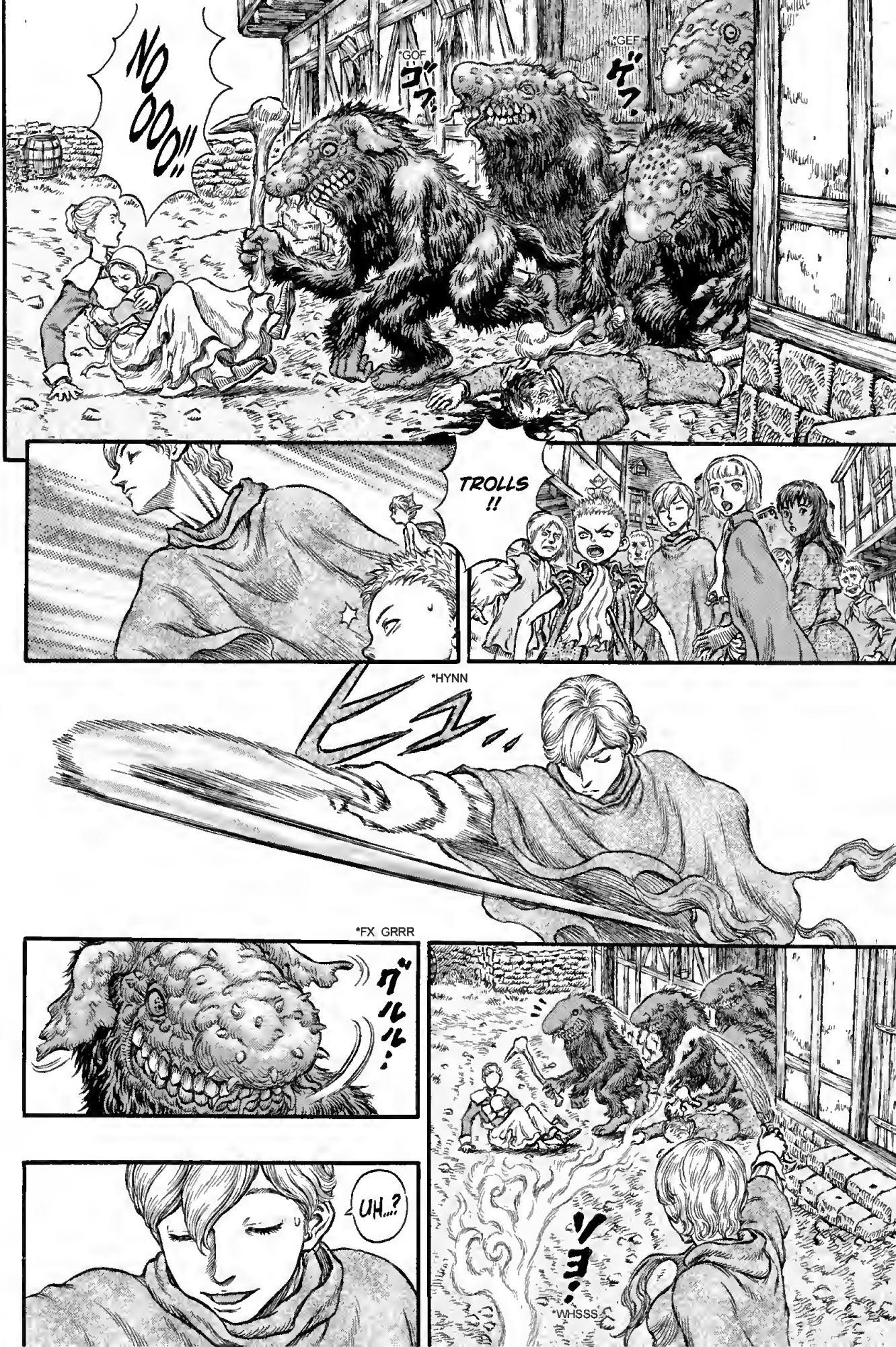
IT'S A HUGE PACK OF TROLLS!!
EVERYONE TO THE CHURCH!!

HEY YA!


ANYWAY, LET US GO TO THE CHURCH. ALL THE VILLAGERS ARE GATHERING THERE.
WE DID, TOO.
I GOT THAT THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE ALREADY! SURE IS HANDY!
CREEPY, THOUGH!

*FX DSSH


AIEE


NO OOO!!
*GOF
ゴッ
*GEF
ゲフ
TROLLS !!
*HYNN
*FX GRRR
グルル!
UH...?
ソヨ!
*WHSSS

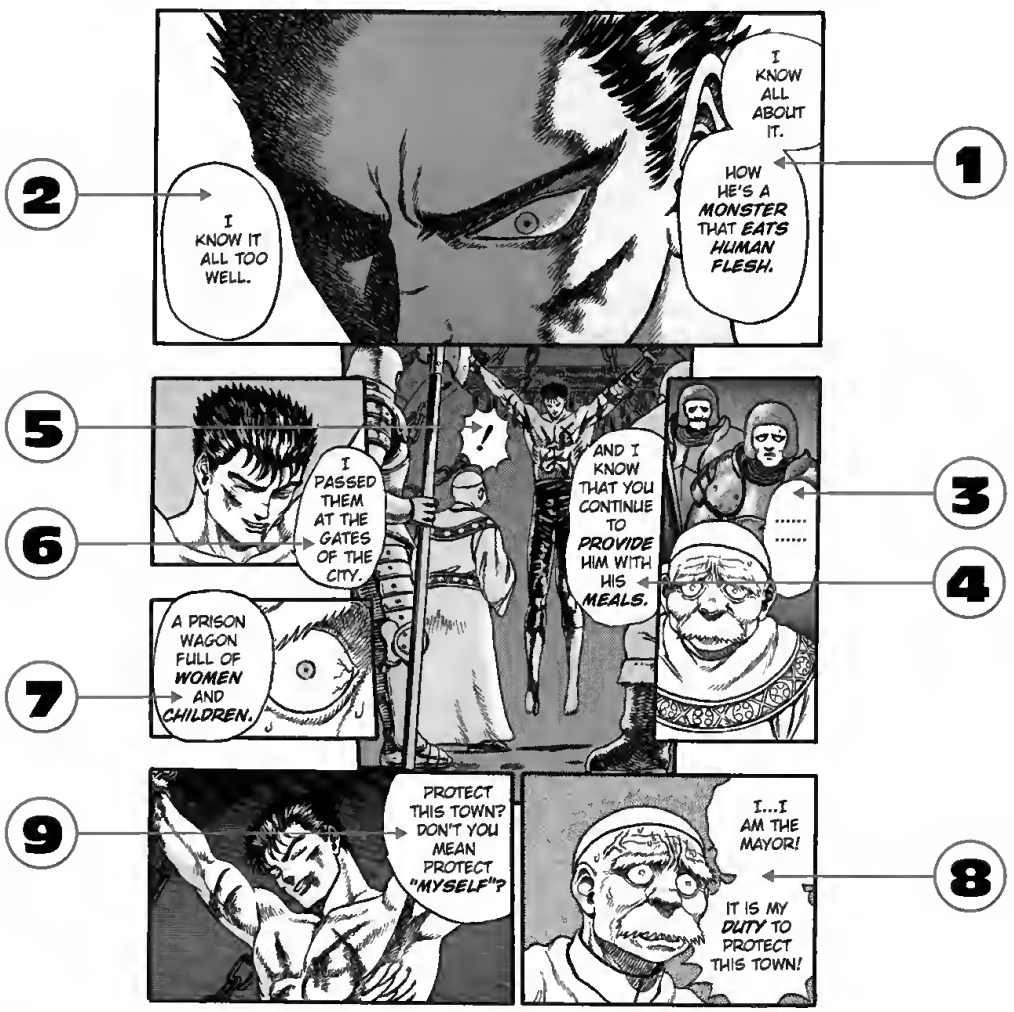
SPIRITS... SPIRITS...
REMEMBER SCHIERKE'S WORDS !!
SERPICO !!
ELEM-ENTA
OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
BE PRECISE!
IMAGE... IMAGE...
HMMM...
YES...
IT FELT LIKE THIS.
IGHH!
AGGHH!
WHOA! HERE THEY COME!
*ZHA
*ZHA
*ZHA
*ZHA
*ZHA

I AM DEPENDING UPON YOU, SPIRITS !!
*HYRRRL
*SHOMM

STOP

This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!



COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / MANGA / HORROR

BERSERK

KENTARO MIURA

24

ベルセルク
三浦建太郎

Desperate to find a sanctuary where his lover, Casca, will be safe from the demons drawn to her Brand of Sacrifice, Guts the Black Swordsman pushes his motley band of followers onward toward fairy Puck's homeland, Elfheim. With new allies who make their home in a mystically guarded woodland paradise, Guts' goal seems within reach, but danger lurks in the shadows of even the most dazzling utopias, and even fairy witchery may not protect Guts and his companions from an army of marauding, murderous trolls!

Created by Kentaro Miura, *Berserk* is a runaway manga locomotive, a crashing colossus of teeth-rattling action, spine-chilling horror, and taboo-breaking humor that fires the boilers of its devoted devotees and just fires the rest. Ashes to ashes!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK HORSE MANGA

FOR READERS 18+
FOR MATURE READERS